

PARIS (AP) — Ten sailors were killed in an accident Wednesday on a submerged nuclear attack submarine off the coast of Toulon, the defence ministry announced. A ministry spokesman said the accident aboard the Emeraude was confined to the sub's turbo-alternator compartment, which produces steam-powered electricity. The accident did not affect the nuclear components and "in no way puts into question either the nuclear security of the vessel or the environment," said the spokesman. The victims were all present in the turbo-alternator chamber when the accident occurred, the spokesman said. The Emeraude, a Rubis-class attack submarine, was able to resurface and was returning to port on its own power, expected late in the evening. The vessel, which normally holds a crew of 66, was on a training exercise with other subs at the time of the accident, the ministry sources in Toulon said the accident occurred late Wednesday morning between Toulon and the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. The Emeraude was taking part in combined exercises with surface ships, according to the sources.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراية



SARAJEVO (R) — The Bosnian parliament voted unanimously on Wednesday to set up a Croat-Muslim federation, ending a year of war between two of Bosnia's three ethnic factions. Deputies ratified a constitution drafted by U.S. diplomats envisaging a decentralised state of ethnically based cantons with loose links to Croatia. Deputies whose communities were at war little more than a month ago clapped and embraced one another after the unanimous vote following three days of tortuous, sometimes acrimonious debate. A Croat walkout on Tuesday. Parliament President Marijofil Ljubic said 112 of the assembly's 122 deputies voted. More than two thirds were Muslims, about 30 were members of Croatia's ruling party HDZ, and the rest moderate Serbs committed to a multi-ethnic Bosnia. Nationalist Serbs bent on dismembering Bosnia over its 1992 secession from Serbian-led Yugoslavia have seized 70 per cent of the republic in two years of war and have rejected any part in the federation despite strong superpower pressure.

See related story on page 8

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Queen returns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein was Wednesday evening at the airport to receive Her Majesty Queen Noor upon her return from the United Kingdom where she participated in a women's conference. The Queen delivered an address at the forum stressing the importance of world cooperation and understanding among nations. Queen Noor said in her address that Jordan is characterised with demographic, intellectual and commercial openness in addition to moderate stands and social justice.

U.N. experts arrive in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Preparations for long-term monitoring of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction gathered pace on Wednesday as a team of U.N. ballistic missile experts arrived in Baghdad. "This is a rather quick-paced, intense mission to produce documentation that will be used during the ongoing monitoring and verification phase," team leader John Larabee told reporters. "We're here to go through a baseline inspection of missile facilities here in Iraq... to produce the documents that will be used by later inspection teams," he added. "We will be here roughly 30 days out of the next two months," Mr. Larabee said. The 14-member team had initially planned to stay 10 days.

Russian diplomat missing in Bangkok

BANGKOK (R) — A Russian diplomat, that has gone missing in Bangkok while in possession of secret embassy documents, police said Wednesday. They told reporters that Igor Makeev, 39, the third secretary at the Russian embassy, had been missing from his apartment since March 22. Police Major General Issaraphan Sanitwong on Ayudhaya, chief of the foreign division, said Mr. Makeev went missing with a laptop computer which contained secret embassy information. He gave no details. Police sources said they feared the diplomat might have left the country or been killed. They said police had been searching for him secretly for a week after an official from the Russian embassy notified them of his disappearance. Embassy officials refused to comment.

Two sentenced to death in Algeria

PARIS (R) — A special court in Algeria sentenced two militants to death on Wednesday for the killing seven months ago of three policemen. Algeria's official AP news agency said the court action came after a three-month period during which the government promoted dialogue with militants trying to establish an Islamic state in Algeria (see page 10). The two militants sentenced by a special court in Oran, one of three such tribunals established in 1992 to combat the use of Islamic fundamentalism, were identified as Lazreg Ben Sidi-Ahmad and Mohamed Hamidi. They were found guilty of killing three policemen as well as setting fire to trucks and a public company.

Bonn boosts security at Israeli missions

BONN (AP) — A threatened attack led police to seal off roads to the Israeli embassy and add protection to Jewish centres, officials said Wednesday. The Israeli embassy was guarded by an additional cordon of police for a second day in a row. Police spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they had gotten wind of a plot by an undisclosed group from the Mideast. Security was also added to the Jewish community's headquarters in Frankfurt, said Michael Friedman, a spokesman for the community. The Friedman would not disclose the nature of the threat but suggested that police had uncovered plans for a bombing attempt. "If I said who the group was that would be giving them the publicity they wanted from the bombing," he said.

Israel, PLO settle one hurdle; another remains

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Wednesday settled one major obstacle to restarting their stalled peace talks. PLO sources said. But negotiators were still arguing the tricky question of a foreign observer force for Hebron. The Israeli and PLO delegates met for a second day to try to agree on a security plan for Palestinians in the West Bank town where a Jewish settler massacred dozens of Palestinians in a mosque. The PLO has demanded protection for Hebron's 110,000 residents before returning to overall peace talks on Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, which were halted by the Feb. 25 massacre. Yaacov Setty, a spokesman for Israel's embassy in Cairo, said negotiators were working on final details, but would not say when an agreement might be announced. "They are trying to finish with Hebron matters as soon as possible to move on to Jericho-Gaza," he told reporters. Still, the talks have been

complicated by the need to get approval for any decisions from officials in Israel and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at his headquarters in Tunis. PLO officials in Tunis said the two sides agreed Wednesday to put 100 Palestinian police in Hebron, overcoming one main barrier to getting back to wider peace talks. The Palestinians would go on joint patrols with Israelis. But the Tunis sources, who insisted on anonymity, said the negotiators still disagreed on the numbers and nationalities of foreign observers to be sent to Hebron. The PLO has demanded American and Russian observers as part of the force, pointing out that a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the massacre urged an "international presence." Israel wants only observers from Norway, which was deeply involved in the secret talks that led to last September's Israel-PLO accord. Israel also is insisting the observers be under Israeli control. The arguments seem to have as much to do with politics as protection of Hebron's Palestinians. (Continued on page 5)

Settler kills Palestinian amid sweeping curfew

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Jewish settler shot dead a Palestinian youth in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday after a group of Palestinians stoned his car. Palestinian sources said. The army said it was checking the report. The sources said Palestinian youths stoned a Jewish settler's car outside Dayr Sharaf village near the town of Nablus. The settler stopped his car, got out and shot dead Wael Nofal, 18, they said. Meanwhile Israel, anxious to avoid renewed violence as it talked peace with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Cairo, clamped curfews on more than a quarter million Palestinians in the occupied territories. Military sources said the curfews were in response to Palestinians dedicating their annual Land Day observance to the victims of last month's massacre in Hebron and Monday's killings by undercover troops of six PLO men in Gaza. The Gaza killings have lent new urgency to Israel-PLO talks in Cairo on security measures for Hebron. The PLO insists those measures be agreed on before it will resume talks on a September peace accord which it suspended after

the Hebron massacre. In clashes in Hebron on Wednesday troops shot and wounded five Palestinians, hospital officials said. An army spokeswoman said parts of Hebron were under curfew mainly neighbourhoods near Jewish enclaves. About 450 Jewish settlers live among 110,000 Palestinians in Hebron. The army said curfews were also in force in the West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and nine refugee camps, including Jabalya in Gaza, where the PLO men were killed. The Fateh Hawks, Fateh's military wing in the Gaza Strip, issued a leaflet in Rafah on Wednesday demanding the PLO suspend peace talks until Israel stopped hunting down wanted men. It called for attacks on Israeli soldiers. "We call for Fateh Hawks... to escalate the military operations against Israeli soldiers. Every Zionist in the strip is considered a target for our military apparatus," it said. The occupied territories exploded in violent clashes on Tuesday in protest at the killings a day earlier. Troops shot dead one Palestinian and wounded at least 78. The PLO accused Israeli undercover troops of cold-

bloodedly murdering its members. Israeli officials said a breakdown in coordination with local PLO officials in the Gaza Strip was to blame for the army unit shooting dead the six. A defence ministry official said a channel for security arrangements that might have prevented such a confrontation was discontinued by the PLO before the incident. Hisham Abdul Razzak, head of the PLO office in Gaza and a key member of the PLO liaison office with Israel set up two months ago, said there was coordination on issues such as how to handle large political rallies and deal with the vanguard of Palestinian police. But he said there was no advance coordination on security issues such as the movement of armed activists, suggesting that upgrading contacts depended on progress in the Israel-PLO negotiations on self-rule. "The level of coordination matches the level of talks," he said. "When there's progress in the talks, it will be matched by an increase in the level of coordination," Mr. Abdul Razzak told the Associated Press. Foreign Minister Shimon

Rabbis rule soldiers should disobey orders

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A conference of 200 Israeli rabbis said soldiers should defy any orders to evacuate Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and threatened to mobilise popular resistance to block their removal, an organiser said Wednesday. "The forced evacuation of people from their homes is immoral and any order to do so is illegitimate," Rabbi Nachum Rabinovitch told the Associated Press. Palestinians have demanded the removal of troublesome Jewish settlements since a settler massacred dozens of Muslim worshippers in the West Bank city of Hebron last month. Peace talks were broken off after the massacre. Some cabinet ministers have said a Jewish settlement in the heart of Hebron should be dismantled to defuse the tensions, although Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the 450 settlers would not be evacuated "at this stage." The rabbis at Tuesday's conference in the Kiryat Arba settlement, which is adjacent to Hebron, called on Israelis to counter any evacuation orders

with passive resistance. A mass rally of settlers is planned in Kiryat Arba Thursday to emphasise the point. "We are ready to mobilise a popular opposition throughout the country," participant Tzefanya Droni, the chief rabbi of the northern Israeli settlement of Kiryat Shmona, told Israel Radio. "One without aggression or a single shot fired, but one that will paralyse the life of the country." Mr. Rabin called the ruling the "beginning of the destruction of the army and state security." A former army chief of staff, Mr. Rabin said legal orders should never be obeyed. "Those who are inciting to do so want to destroy the democracy framework of the state," Israel Radio quoted Mr. Rabin as telling Israeli military correspondents. Other leading rabbis have opposed any defiance of orders. Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron issued a ruling last week declaring that the lives saved by a peace agreement outweighed the value of the settlement in Hebron. Most of the rabbis at the

IRA calls ceasefire

BELFAST (R) — The Irish Republican Army (IRA) announced on Wednesday it was calling a temporary ceasefire in its campaign of violence against British rule in Northern Ireland, the group's political wing Sinn Fein said. It said the unconditional ceasefire would run from midnight local time next Tuesday until the following Friday, April 8 and it hoped the British government would accept it in the spirit it was offered. The announcement followed feverish speculation on both sides of the Irish sea that the IRA was calling a three-day Easter truce in the hope of clearing the way for talks with the British and Irish governments on Northern Ireland. The offer marked the first sign of progress towards peace since London and Dublin launched an initiative three months ago seeking to persuade the guerrillas to end their 25-year campaign. But it fell short of the terms of the so-called Downing Street declaration, which offered Sinn Fein a place in round-table peace talks if their guerrilla allies gave up violence for good.



KING MEETS BLUM: His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received German Minister of Labour and Social Development Norbert Blum and reviewed with him bilateral relations and means of enhancing them. The King briefed Mr. Blum on Jordan's position towards the Middle East peace process, and stressed the need to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace. Dr. Blum praised King Hussein's wise leadership and lauded Jordan's firm stands towards regional and international issues. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Labour Minister Khalid Al Ghazawi and the German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers. Mr. Blum and his wife also visited the Jordan Valley Wednesday (Petra photo)

King receives Arafat message, restates stand on Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received a verbal message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat dealing with the obstacles facing the peace process. The message was conveyed by Mr. Arafat's special envoy Hakam Balawi, who was received in a special audience by the King. Mr. Balawi said the Palestinian leadership "appreciates the King's interest to safeguard

the Arab identity of Jerusalem and to protect the holy places therein." He added that the Palestinian leadership "hopes that the King's efforts to safeguard Jerusalem's Arab identity will continue." The King reviewed Jordan's historical role over the decades in defending rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil and its continuous endeavours to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

"Jordan's interest in preserving the Arab identity of Jerusalem is a historical one, embodying Jordan's commitment to the Arab causes and protecting Arab rights," he said. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Marwan Al Qasem and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Peace has to be felt by people if it is to be durable — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday stressed the importance of a just and durable peace in the Middle East that is felt by the man in the street if it is to become a goal rather than only a political process. Prince Hassan, in a meeting with a Danish delegation, added that peace should be a comprehensive process that will bring comfort and happiness to all. "Jordan seeks what can be termed as warm peace, which should address all pending issues of interest to the people, be they social, economic or psychological," the Crown Prince said. He stressed the importance of the European Union (EU) can play in pushing the peace process forward and ensuring tangible results.

Prince Hassan called for not losing "the vision of peace which has been crystallised in Madrid." The Crown Prince said Jordan's perceptions of the peace process are based on its "special understanding of the entire chain of the conflict, and the need to uproot the causes of such conflict in order to achieve the sought for objectives." Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the delegation any solution to the Middle East problem should be comprehensive, indivisible and not implemented in stages. Speaking during a separate meeting with the Danish delegation representing the Danish Foreign Policy Society, Dr. Majali said Jordan's historical commitment to peace was reflected in its decision to enter the Arab-Israeli

negotiations launched in Madrid in October 1991. He said the major subject on the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations are Israel's occupation of 350 kilometres of Jordanian territories, and Jordan's water seized by Israel. Dr. Majali reviewed Jordan's efforts to ensure Palestinian participation in the peace process, noting that Jordan has offered the Palestinians an umbrella to participate in the process. He reviewed the difficulties Jordan faced until it reached an agreement with Israel on an agenda for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. "Israel is still hesitant to accept the principle of negotiating political issues, including the occupied territories,"

Bishop says U.S. should use aid to pressure Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — The presiding bishop of the New York-based Episcopal Church Centre said Wednesday Washington should stop the cash flow to Israel if it failed to rein in armed Jewish settlers in occupied Arab territories. The Right Reverend Edmond Browning, who is on a tour of the Middle East, said the problem of Jewish settlements should be immediately dealt with and not postponed until after Palestinians gain autonomy in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Sept. 13 accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received Bishop Browning and a delegation representing the Arab Anglican Ecclesiastical Synod, which included head of the Anglican Church Council in Jerusalem and the Middle East Bishop Samir Qafriti and other council members. The delegation members expressed their appreciation of King Hussein's stands on Jerusalem and the holy sites in it, stressing that the Anglican Church's stand on Jerusalem was similar to that of King Hussein's, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Bishop Browning praised the King's stands and expressed appreciation of religious tolerance prevailing in Jordan, Petra said. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Bishop Browning criticised the United Nations Security Council for delaying for three weeks a resolution condemning the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers at a mosque in Hebron. He said the international body waited for "too long to pass a resolution related to the Hebron massacre" in which a Jewish settler gunned down dozens of Palestinians. "It was an atrocity that should have had the immediate response of the whole world." Bishop Browning is the chief pastor for 2.5 million episcopals in the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia. Bishop Browning, 65, was travelling to Israel Thursday as part of a swing that has taken him to Syria and Egypt. He said he backed the PLO's demands for international protection for the two million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. "I think that (the issue of) Jewish settlements in the (occupied) territories should be settled now in the peace process rather than at a later date and that there should be international protectors... to ensure the security of the (Palestinian) people," he said. "If that is not done, our government should withhold funding to the Israeli government," he said. "I think it is a serious matter that should be given immediate attention."

Berlusconi confident he can be premier

ROME (Agencies) — Election-winner Silvio Berlusconi said on Wednesday he believed his federalist ally Umberto Bossi had dropped objections to him becoming Italy's prime minister. Asked after a meeting with Mr. Bossi whether the Northern League leader would accept him as head of the next government, Mr. Berlusconi said: "I think that was the conclusion of our meeting." Mr. Berlusconi's right-wing Freedom Alliance, between his Forza Italia party, the league and the neo-fascist National Alliance, stormed to an absolute majority in Italy's elections. Mr. Berlusconi said that National Alliance would be in his government and confirmed he intended to be prime minister. "It would be logical. This is an electoral alliance. There is a party that is the biggest force within that electoral alliance and I'm the leader of that party," he said. Mr. Bossi said after the meeting: "If everything goes as it should we will rapidly be ready to give the country a government. But first we have to understand properly whether there is the chance of a common programme." Doubts that the uneasy allies could turn their landslide into a stable government had depressed financial markets after the abrasive Bossi lashed out at neo-fascist Gianfranco Fini's National Alliance minutes af-

Christopher says U.S. working on Aqaba siege

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has renewed an offer to the Middle East, but he ruled out a forceful role in settling Israel's conflict with the Arabs or in devising a plan for Palestinian self-rule. Mr. Christopher also told reporters he was looking for ways to ease the impact an international trade embargo against Iraq is having on Jordan, which has said it would not resume negotiations with Israel unless a U.S.-led international naval force stops searching ships bound for the port of Aqaba. "We're certainly working on that," Mr. Christopher said. "We'd like to find some way to ease the burden on Jordan of these inspections... we recognise the pressure on Jordan and the disadvantages to Jordan's economy." Mr. Christopher said an alternative way to screen shipments to deny them to Iraq might be employed. "We recognise the pressure on Jordan and the disadvantages to the Jordanian economy," he said. "We hope we'll find some ways to ease that." The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) quit the peace talks after a Jewish militant attacked and killed dozens of Muslims in a mosque in Hebron, but the three Arab governments have not relented. Mr. Christopher said the Israeli-PLO talks "have been making relatively good progress," but he ruled out more than an advisory role for the United States. "These are negotiations that are best done by the parties face to face," he said. "We want to facilitate them but we don't want to get in their way." Still, Mr. Christopher offered to visit the Middle East to meet with Israeli and Arab leaders. "I'm certainly prepared to go... at any time it would be helpful," he said. On a related issue, he said he was not surprised the Arab League had not lifted its economic boycott of Israel because the meeting was held "under the long shadow of Hebron." "Naturally, I had hoped they would take some action at this meeting," he said.

هكذا منذ الأصل

Security Council presses for Western Sahara vote

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — The Security Council March 29 on Tuesday adopted a resolution in the Western Sahara by the end of the year and endorsed a plan by Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on eligible voters.

The council asked the secretary-general to report by July 15 on the progress achieved by the commission identifying eligible voters and other aspects of the settlement plan in order to decide how to proceed.

The referendum to decide whether the territory should be incorporated into Morocco or become independent was originally set for January 1992. But it has been postponed repeatedly because of differences between the Moroccan government and a Polisario Front over who should be eligible to vote. The Polisario has accused Morocco of trying to increase the voter rolls with supporters from outside the territory. Many of the territory's inhabitants are nomads, which has complicated the compilation of voter lists.

In its resolution the council said that the identification commission, which is part of the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), should finish its work by June 30 according to the eligibility compromise suggested by Dr. Ghali and then begin registering potential voters. It told the secretary-general to send more personnel to the U.N. operation in order to carry out the tasks.

In a statement released to the press, the U.S. Mission to the U.N. urged "both parties to cooperate with the United Nations" in registering voters by June 30.

"This is a pivotal moment in the mediation, where we hope both parties are prepared to make the difficult decisions required to bring closure," the U.S. statement said.

"The will of the United Nations cannot substitute the will of the parties," it said. "This conflict faces daunting global challenges of international peace and security. The council also faces daunting challenges of a financial and resource nature. Already we have been hard-pressed to meet demands in areas where conflict is more severe than in the Western Sahara. It is against this background that the U.S. government will approach discussions on the Western Sahara, and specifically MINURSO, later this year."

Minurso, while authorized to have almost 3,000 personnel, currently has only about 315 military observers and 20 police in the territory.

Iraq praises U.N. for defying U.S. influence

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq Wednesday praised the U.N. Security Council for what it described as the body's increasing defiance of American pressures to maintain the U.N. oil embargo.

The Al Thawra newspaper, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party, said Washington's allegedly diminishing sway was showcased by disagreement over whether to acknowledge Iraq's cooperation with weapons inspectors in recent months.

Although the Security Council agreed to maintain the four-year-old oil embargo earlier this month, Russia, China and France wanted the council to publicly acknowledge Iraq's increased compliance with conditions for its lifting.

Rolf Ekeus, leader of the U.N. Special Commission charged with destroying Iraq's nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons arsenals, praised Iraqi cooperation but refrained from recommending a lifting of the embargo, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. Before the Security Council lifts the oil embargo, Iraq must meet certain weapons-related conditions, including full declaration of prohibited arms, their destruction and acceptance of long-term monitoring.

More patients but less medicine in Iraqi hospitals

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's hospitals are taking in more and more patients every day but the sick are discharging themselves because there are no medicines to treat them with, doctors at a hard-pressed Baghdad hospital said.

"The situation is getting worse. Every day there is less and less of the vital medicines we need to treat our patients," Doctor Tammar Al Dhahir told Reuters Television.

At the Al Qadissiya Hospital in Baghdad's sprawling working-class suburb of Saddam City, U.N. sanctions imposed against Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait continue to bite.

The shelves in the hospital pharmacy were bare on Tuesday. The pharmacist turns people away with their prescriptions unfulfilled. "Doctors, in a large general ward, all but one of the beds were empty. Doctors at the hospital said that patients were discharging themselves because there were no medicines. Infant deaths from gastroenteritis, a treatable disease, are on the rise in Baghdad."

The strain on the hospital staff was evident. "You (Western journalists) come here again and again but still nothing happens. We have been betrayed," an angry doctor in his thirties said at the bedside of a young girl whose acute asthma attack he was unable to treat.

Although medicines, food and other humanitarian supplies are exempt from the embargo, foreign currency revenue has become scarce as a result of the international sanctions which ban Iraq's crude oil exports, a major source of hard cash.

Iraq has rejected a partial lifting of the U.N. embargo which would allow Iraq to sell limited crude oil and is insisting on a total lifting of the sanctions.

The U.N. Security Council renewed the embargo at its regular 60-day review in mid-March. The U.N. resolutions call for the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and curbs on its ability to produce new ones.

The lifting of sanctions could be six to nine months away, U.N. diplomats say. In the meantime, shipment of drugs and medicines to administer to patients is hampered. Babies suffering from acute gastroenteritis arrive irregularly or not at all, Dr. Dhahir said.

Doctors say common conditions such as epilepsy and asthma, which can normally be controlled with drugs, go untreated because the right medicine and equipment cannot be found.

"Infant deaths from gastroenteritis are on the increase in Baghdad. The babies are not getting all the nourishment they need from their mothers' milk because the mothers are not getting a proper diet themselves," Dr. Dhahir said.

Doctors say common conditions such as epilepsy and asthma, which can normally be controlled with drugs, go untreated because the right medicine and equipment cannot be found.



Israeli soldiers search a house in the Shawfat refugee camp in Jerusalem on Wednesday following stone-throwing protests in the camp (AFP photo)

Underground Kach leader vows to fight government

TEL AVIV (AP) — The fugitive leader of the extremist Kach group describes the Israeli government as "Bolsheviks," says Arabs should be expelled from Israel and holds that the man who gunned down dozens of Muslim worshippers was a "saint."

Baruch Marzel, 35, the target of an intensive month-long manhunt by the government, was interviewed in an underground hideout a short drive from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office.

"There is no law that I have to turn myself in. They have to look for me. They get a salary for it," said Mr. Marzel, whose group was outlawed after the Hebron mosque massacre.

The pudgy, bearded Marzel said he charged location daily but has managed to travel everywhere, even back to the West Bank town of Hebron where he lives with his wife and six children in a trailer.

Mr. Marzel, successor of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane who was assassinated in New York in 1991, is the only wanted Kach activist still at large. Seven other top activists were arrested and held without trial and about 50 ordered to return their army-issued weapons.

The group, known as Kach, has been accused of kidnapping, rape, and other crimes. Marzel said most of the 17-member leadership was not targeted and outlawing the organization only made it more popular.

"We'll continue to work. We are continuing today to work. We cannot stop working for the Jewish people in these very bad times," said Mr. Marzel, who faces six months administrative detention without trial if caught.

"The government is going to destroy the Jewish state. They are going to give the enemies the heart of Israel, Judah and Shomron," he said, using the Biblical names for the West Bank and Gaza.

"We will get to a stage where we will have to expel a lot," he said.

He blamed the government, especially its failure to stop Palestinian violence, for prompting the Feb. 25 massacre by Baruch Goldstein.

Goldstein was elected as a Kach representative on the town council of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba.

Mr. Marzel described Goldstein as a "close friend" but distanced himself and Kach from the massacre, saying that "to my knowledge he did it on his own without talking to anyone."

Marzel was also cautious about giving his own opinion of the massacre, noting that a right-winger who called a talk show was arrested by police and charged with incitement for praising Goldstein.

"Baruch Goldstein, before he did this thing, was one of the holiest Jews that I knew," he said. "He was something very, very holy. He was a saint."

"Climate for leniency" Israel's top military prosecutors testified Wednesday that settler perpetrators were treated more leniently than their Palestinian counterparts because they could use the political climate to their favor.

Brigadier General Ilan Schift, testifying before the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre, also said he often feared that rule of law in the occupied territories "would crash."

"In a situation where (Palestinians) do not recognize the judicial system," Gen. Schift said, "where a soldier has to protect the local population and be protected from it, gentlemen, maintaining rule of law is very difficult."

Gen. Schift also acknowledged that the burden on the system, which has dealt with 97,000 cases against Palestinians since 1967, sometimes made it inequitable.

There Mr. Marzel lived in a single room with a radio, a computer, a refrigerator and a cot. A cellular telephone and beeper were on the table next to a pitcher of apple juice.

On the wall was a hand-drawn poster of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat holding a gun to Mr. Rabin's head. Mr. Marzel explained why he supported "expelling" Arabs from Israel.

"The hatred we have is towards our enemy, not towards people because they are Arabs or Chinese," said Mr. Marzel, who frequently searched for words in English even though he said he was born in Boston, and is an American citizen.

"I'm not a racist," said Mr. Marzel, who wears a black kippa, or skullcap, and full black beard.

He predicted Mr. Rabin's peacemaking would collapse and that Palestinians would respond with violence, which would force Israel to expel Arabs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisian activist charged with defamation

TUNIS (AP) — A former human rights activist who tried to run for president is under investigation for spreading "false information to disturb the public order," the official news agency reported Tuesday. Moncef Marzouki, in interviews with foreign media, has criticized the government of President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and his well-entrenched ruling party that won elections March 20. A court ordered Mr. Marzouki, the former head of the Tunisian Human Rights League arrested Thursday, to remain in jail during the probe for defamation and disinformation, the TAP news agency said. Dr. Marzouki, a 47, also "underwent a medical examination" at the request of his lawyer, TAP said, but there was no elaboration on the results. Dr. Marzouki was unable to run for president because he could not gather support from at least 30 parliamentarians or mayors as required by law. A group of 100 intellectuals has urged that the government amend the law that in effect prevents anyone from contesting the president because his ruling party holds nearly all elected offices.

Turkey delivers first two F-16s to Egypt

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has delivered the first two of 46 F-16 fighter planes it has sold to Egypt under a U.S.-backed project, Turkish military officials said. They said the other planes, built under the peace Vector-IV project agreed between Egypt, Turkey and the United States in 1991, would be handed over by June 1995. A Turkish Defence Ministry statement said Egypt would supply Turkey with fuselage spare parts under the project. "Egypt is one of the countries which, together with Turkey, has the responsibility to maintain peace in the region," President Suleyman Demirel said at the handover ceremony. "Our cooperation is not to harm anybody but to form a deterrent force," he said. The ceremony was also attended by U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Richard Barkley and Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Rafat Al Sayed Al Diwani. The planes have been built in murted, Ankara since September at a joint U.S.-Turkish plant, TAI, where 120 aircraft have been made for the Turkish air force since it was set up in 1964.

Kuwait, Iran sign shipping agreement

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait and Iran on Tuesday agreed to expand shipping links and simplify customs procedures in an effort to boost trade between the two Gulf countries. The agreement was signed by Iran's minister of roads and transportation, Ali Akbar Torkan, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Habib Jawhar Hayat, the state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Mr. Torkan, who is on a brief visit to the emirate, told KUNA that the agreement also called for more cooperation in controlling sea traffic, rescue missions, and fighting marine pollution. Kuwait was one of Iraq's bankrollers during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. Relations between Kuwait and Tehran have improved since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when Iran remained neutral in the conflict.

Falange files lawsuit against former militia

BEIRUT (AFP) — The right-wing Christian Falange Party on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against its former militia the Lebanese Forces (LF), in a fresh challenge to the outlawed faction. Falange Secretary General Karim Pakradouni told AFP that the party wanted to recover the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation (LBC), Lebanon's most watched television station which has been run by the militia since 1985. He said that the LBC was set up in 1980 with Falange funds after a political decision was taken by the right-wing party. It began broadcasting five years later. "The dissolution of the LF has opened the way for us to recover what rightfully belongs to us," he said. Mr. Pakradouni added that the party had already filed lawsuits against the LF to retrieve cooperatives and buildings controlled by the former militia. Last week the government outlawed the Lebanese Forces as part of an investigation into the bombing in February of a Maronite Christian church that killed 10 worshippers and wounded 54. The authorities charge that seven out of nine suspects are LF members, including the former militia's deputy Fouad Malek. The LF was set up in 1976 by assassinated President Elect Bashir Gemayel to be the military wing of the Falange Party, which was founded in 1936 by Mr. Gemayel's father Pierre. It grouped a string of militias until the government disbanded the militias in 1990. One year later the LF formed a political party under the leadership of warlord Samir Geagea.

Iran condemns Czech 'Satanic Verses'

PRAGUE (R) — Iran's embassy in Prague on Tuesday condemned the Czech translation of British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," which is due to be published in the Czech republic later this year. In a statement sent to Reuters, embassy spokesman Mohammad Djonkidi called publication of the book "the most outrageous act against Islam and Muslims all over the world." Further publication of this insulting book, of course, helps to flame up the wickedness of the author and policies oriented against Islamic countries. "Such an assault on Islamic values could certainly endanger world peace and security, and of course the responsibility for any possible backfire would lie with the assaulters." Vlastimil Svoboda, owner of Prague publishing house Cesty, said he hoped to publish the Czech version later this year. "This is an old (book) that the rest of the world has had a chance to see, and it is time for our people to have a chance to know it," Mr. Svoboda told Reuters.

Germany probes suspect Iraq deal

BONN (R) — German prosecutors are investigating a previously unknown company that requested exemption from United Nations sanctions to sell \$1.3 billion worth of goods to Iraq. The deal had already raised the suspicions of the United Nations as a possible attempt to bust sanctions, the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ) daily reported. A Mannheim-based firm called United Oil Company submitted the request via the foreign ministry in Bonn. The ministry passed the request to the U.N. Sanctions Committee in New York, not noticing that United Oil Company did not figure in the trade register or the telephone directory. The Mannheim prosecutor's office said it was making preliminary inquiries, but declined to give more details. The foreign ministry said German export and food authorities were also examining the case to see if domestic approval for the export should be granted.

American Jewish groups give memorial plaque to Hebron

By Rosalind Murphy

WASHINGTON — A coalition of American Jewish groups March 29 offered the people of Hebron a plaque in memory of the Palestinians killed by a Jewish settler there last month.

"We are sending the plaque to tell the people of Hebron that we share in their profound shock and grief over the Hebron mosque massacre; that we join them in their sorrow and that our hearts are with them in their time of mourning," the coalition said in a statement.

The plaque is dedicated "to the people of Hebron in memory of those Palestinians massacred Feb. 25, 1994," Hassan Abdul Rahman, the PLO representative in Washington, accepted the plaque in a ceremony held at the Palestine Affairs Centre in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said he will deliver the plaque to the mayor of Hebron when he visits there in the next few weeks.

The groups presenting the plaque included: the Jewish Committee for Israeli-Palestinian Peace; the Jewish Peace Fellowship; the New York, San Francisco Bay area and Seattle chapters of the International Jewish Peace Union; the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition; and the Jewish Peace Lobby.

"We want to dedicate this (plaque) in the hope that very soon we will see the people of Palestine receive their freedom and that there will be a peaceful solution between the Palestinians and Israelis as soon as possible," Don Peretz of the Jewish Peace Lobby said during the ceremony.

"Perhaps out of this tragic event, one good thing can come and that is speeding up the peace process," he said. Ken Giles, representing the Jewish Peace Fellowship, noted that Jews all over the world are now celebrating the Passover holiday. Passover, he said, is not only a "Jewish festival of freedom, but it is also a universal festival of freedom for all peoples."

In this spirit, he said, "it has become a new tradition to use Passover as a way to think about other people's freedom and the need for it."

"It is appropriate that on this festival we can present this plaque to you and extend our hand in sympathy," Mr. Giles said to the PLO representative.

Mr. Abdul Rahman said he accepted the plaque as a "commitment made by both the Palestinians and the peace-loving people within the Jewish community... to the fight against hatred and racism and to dedicate our efforts to achieve peaceful coexistence and cooperation between our two peoples, based on mutual recognition, equality and independence for our people" — United States Information Agency.

Drugs, alcohol seized in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian security forces arrested 30 alleged drug smugglers and seized large quantities of narcotics and liquor in Tehran during celebrations marking the Iranian new year, the Tehran Times newspaper says.

The English-language daily said 650 kilograms of hashish and opium were seized when the suspected smugglers were nabbed on March 21, the first day of the Iranian new year.

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Tel: 773111-19

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Feature Film: "Always Remember I Love You"

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Minister briefs visiting Danish delegation on effects of Aqaba siege, Hebron massacre

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Wednesday reviewed with a visiting Danish delegation Jordan's efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East based on United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land for peace principle.

Mr. Al Hassan briefed the 50-member delegation on the negative consequences to the Jordanian economy caused by the siege on Aqaba's seaport, and noted in particular His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to lift the siege.

He referred to the meeting King Hussein had Monday in Amman with the ambassadors of the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council, and the King's emphasis on the need to address this issue as soon as possible. "The King stressed that the siege was unjustifiable given Jordan's positive and constructive stands towards the Arab-Israeli peace process," the minister said.

Mr. Al Hassan also referred to the grave consequences of the Feb. 25 massacre at Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron on the peace process and called on the international community and the Security Council to prevent the recurrence of such crimes, and provide protection to the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

He called on the council to



A visiting delegation of the Danish Foreign Policy Society Wednesday attends a briefing on the situation in the Middle East by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan (Petra)

implement Resolution 904 on the Hebron massacre.

Mr. Al Hassan reviewed the dangers posed by the Israeli settlements on the peace process and emphasized the need for dismantling them and for ending the occupation if a just, comprehensive and lasting peace is to be achieved.

The nearly 50-member delegation, which is in Jordan on

a leg of a study tour to the region, expressed its appreciation to King Hussein and the Jordanian people and government and praised Jordan's important role in pushing the peace process forward, and maintaining security and stability in the region.

The group represents the Copenhagen-based Danish Foreign Policy Society, a private non-profit and independent association founded in 1946 with the aim of stimulating public sector interest in and knowledge about foreign affairs.

The delegation, which includes government officials, lawyers, scientists, academicians, journalists and economists arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to the Kingdom.

Jordanian- Egyptian higher panel reschedules meeting to mid-April

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee has been rescheduled after the Egyptian government sought a postponement but the delay has no political backdrop, officials and diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The committee, chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries and grouping several members of the two cabinets, was supposed to have met in Amman March 22, but the Cairo government requested a delay on technical grounds, they said.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told reporters on Tuesday that Jordan had made at preparations for the meeting, the committee's first since the 1990 Gulf crisis which strained Amman-Cairo relations but the plans were called off at the last minute.

Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Wajih Hamdi was quoted in the local press as saying the meeting was now scheduled to be held April 25-28 and the Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki was expected in Amman on April 26 to attend the deliberations.

The joint committee which is supposed to meet once every six months, alternating the two capitals, is expected to discuss issues related to trade, labour, joint projects, energy and other related areas.

Ambassador Hamdi said Dr. Sedki will be accompanied by the minister of finance, industry, trade and labour and possibly of energy and transport. The Jordanian side will include their counterparts.

"All subjects of mutual concern in bilateral cooperation in trade, economy and labour would be discussed by the committee," a spokesman for the Egyptian embassy here said. "Also on the table would be a Jordanian-Egyptian trade protocol."

The two sides are expected to sign a new agreement increasing the volume of trade. Jordan imported Egyptian goods worth JD 35 million in 1993. Its exports to Egypt during the year were worth JD 5 million.

Egyptian Minister of Industry and Trade Mahmoud Mohammad visited Amman in February and signed an agreement with his counterpart Rima Khalaf on extending

ing customs duty exemptions to some of each others products.

The minister also discussed overall trade and recommendations to be submitted to the higher committee. Details were not available.

The joint-committee is also expected to review the affairs of existing Jordanian-Egyptian joint ventures and plans to future projects in addition to issues related to Egyptian workers in Jordan as well as students studying at each others universities.

The decision to convene a meeting of the higher committee was taken after a strain in relations was mended last year following a visit His Majesty King Hussein paid to Egypt for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The strain was caused by differing approaches adopted towards ending the Gulf crisis caused by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In the absence of regular meetings of the higher committee, officials say, many ambitious expansion projects of joint companies had to be frozen.

While the joint companies continued their regular work

discussions on consolidating their activities and following up on agreements reached during the committee's last meeting held in July 1990, could not be conducted properly, they say.

The two governments are partners in a maritime transport company which operates regular ferry service for passengers and vehicles between Aqaba and Egypt's Red Sea port of Nuweibeh.

Jordan and Egypt, which have already started work on linking their national power grids, are also parties to an agreement signed on Baghdad early this year to set up a regional electricity network which will include Iraq, Turkey and Syria.

Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and Iraq founded the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), an economic alliance, in 1989. The council went into limbo following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Egyptian parliament adopted a resolution in December suspending Cairo's membership in the council. The impact of the suspension on the workings of the higher committee was not immediately known.

A night to remember, with Ricciarelli

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Italy's first soprano Katia Ricciarelli made history in Jordan Tuesday night with a performance that her audience will forever remember.

Gathered at a beautiful decorated ballroom of the Philadelphia Hotel, a full house of 1,300 people literally contributed to creating a warm atmosphere from the start. The Prima Donna and the accompanist Maestro Vincenzo Scaleria, gave a flawless recital, enduring an excessive heat with grace and poise.

Katia Ricciarelli sang with breathtaking talent, exquisite taste, and genuine passion

and emotion to bring tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

She sailed from Rossini to Tosti with the same ease. Her voice was powerful but not aggressive, soft but not weak, always human, never cold or too technical.

Operatic, dramatic with class, elegance and finesse, Katia Ricciarelli immediately created harmony with her audience and half-way through her second programme had them soaring from their seats in fervent applause.

Maestro Scaleria on piano was masterful.

As with all great accompanists, the keyboard was an orchestra in his hands. Perfectly in tune and in

tempo with each other Ricciarelli and Scaleria are a match made in heaven.

With three encores and two standing ovations, the great soprano indulged the crowd with her finale... delightful interpretation of "O Sole Mino," which an Italian diplomat in the audience described as Italy's "other" national anthem.

The proceeds of the evening performance were donated by Ms. Ricciarelli and Maestro Scaleria to the National Music Conservatory (NMC), Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which co-sponsored the benefit recital with the Italian embassy in Jordan.

Italian ambassador in Am-

man Romoulo Bettini announced prior to the performance that Ms. Ricciarelli was also preparing a programme in cooperation with the NMC to bring Jordanian music students to Italy to further their talents.

Tuesday's event was held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Deputising for the Queen was Sharifa Hind Nasser.

Attending the recital were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Princess Majida, and Minister of Culture Amin Mahmoud.

Ambassador Bettini later held a private dinner for Ms. Ricciarelli, Maestro Scaleria and friends later at his residence.

MEETING AT RURAL AFFAIRS

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday attended a meeting of the Planning Committee at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment. During the meeting Dr. Majali stressed the government's interest in increasing civil servants' salaries, but linked such raises to the availability of sufficient earnings. He also said the government will provide incentives for good performers only, and expects that such incentives will encourage poor performers to upgrade their work. Dr. Majali also talked about the decentralisation of the decision making process, municipal council elections, and eradicating corruption.



WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Aman (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166)
- ★ Computer exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balks Art Gallery in Fuhels (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720902).
- ★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Husam Khader and Rahim Al Shaykhi at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 50 artists at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artists Abdul Mannan Shamma, Khaled Al Maz, and Mamdouh Kashlan at Ab'bad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures and drawings by Jordanian sculptor Samer Tabbas. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwbeidh (Tel. 643251/2).

Abu Jaber decorated by Chile

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upper House of Parliament Member Kamel Abu Jaber Wednesday was decorated with Chile's Grand Cross Bernardo O'Higgins Medal by Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Hadad Herezi.

At a ceremony held at the embassy residence, Dr. Heresi explained that Bernardo O'Higgins is considered a national hero and was a leader of the fight for freedom and independence in Chile.

therefore, was conferred on Dr. Abu Jaber in recognition of his continued efforts to cement the relationship of Jordan and Chile and for his permanent interest in solidifying and strengthening bilateral relations in the political, economic, social development and cultural arenas, said the ambassador.

Multi-sector dismay with House reveals special interests of groups

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Several deputies, citizens, and members of political parties recently described the performance and achievements of the Lower House of Parliament during its first regular session as disappointing.

"The House was passive and compromising in its dealings with the government," charged Tarek Ma'moun, a private sector businessman.

Legislators have been criticised for their endorsement of certain laws that conflict with citizens' interests; such complaints emerged when the House passed the draft tenancy law earlier this month approving several controversial articles that hundreds of downtown Amman merchants charged were "unfair" to tenants.

The traders said that all their appeals to deputies concerning these articles were neglected, although copies of a petition signed by their colleagues have been sent to lawmakers.

The municipal council draft legislation also approved by the House in the last meeting of its regular session caused similar reac-

tions by many members of municipal councils who have accused deputies of disregarding their demands and requests concerning the draft law.

"Deputies have to respect the requirements of their voters," said the municipal council members, as quoted by Al Dustour daily newspaper.

Deputy Ali Abul Ragheb (Amman's third district) said that both deputies and municipalities' members were to blame as there was a lack of communication concerning this issue. He added that some deputies are passive when it comes to debating proposed draft laws, but that citizens should "do their homework" and follow up on issues debated in Parliament.

The lawmaker said that the House Financial Committee is currently coordinating with different sectors of society to come up with comprehensive recommendations of the law to serve the public interest.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said the committee has held meetings with many different political parties, economists, and governmental figures to discuss the draft law.

The lawmaker told the Jordan Times Wednesday that

he "believed" the financial committee has produced many productive recommendations to boost the country's economy. "For the first time in Jordan's parliamentary history, 28 recommendations covering various economic concerns have been passed," he said. Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber had a different assessment of the House's achievements.

He told the Jordan Times that many queries of IAF deputies have been "brushed off" by Lower House Speaker Taber Masri. The Islamist deputy accused Mr. Masri of "collaborating" with the government to ignore Islamist deputies' requests that are not contingent with the government's interests.

Deputy Jaber (Amman's first district) ridiculed democracy in Jordan and described it as "a disposable outfit" used whenever "fancied."

The deputy gave as evidence the government's and other deputies' disregard for amending a law concerning a ban on alcohol consumption in the country. He said that enforcing the law "disagrees with" Mr. Masri's interests.

Mr. Ma'moun accused deputies of putting their own

personal interests ahead of those of the public and expressed disappointment in the "marginal" role they played in influencing the House's "poor" performance.

He said there were "too many" political parties that are "far from representing the public."

He added that the parties have failed to adopt constructive policies to deal with public requirements "the people on the street."

Alli Amer of Jordan's Progressive Democratic Party said that political parties have had limited success in integrating with lawmakers despite "serious attempts" by some parties to do so.

Mr. Amer added that parties find it difficult to develop compatible relations with the House because deputies are not "really representative" of the public. "The introduction of the one-person one-vote formula into the Election Law was characteristic of a backward country rather than one on the route to endorsing democracy," he said.

Mr. Amer praised the House Financial Committee's efforts to include "everyone" in their decision-making steps

concerning the draft tax legislation and described it as "a step in the right direction."

The politician added that parties need to work towards achieving better relations with lawmakers and aim at constructing a "modern democratic" country.

Deputy Abul Ragheb said that despite all criticism, he believed the House "did a very good job and succeeded in satisfying people's various needs." The deputy pointed to constructive achievements of the House like "the proper tackling of the food and medicine issue" and the legislators stand concerning the U.S. siege on Aqaba port, which he added was translated by His Majesty King Hussein's announcement to the five ambassadors in Jordan representing permanent members of the U.N. Security Council that Jordan's resumption of the peace talks was contingent upon satisfactory solution to the siege on Aqaba.

Mr. Abul Ragheb added that the country's "peculiar" economic, social, and security situation does not make things easy for legislations. "There is so much to do in such a short period of time," said the deputy.

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AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL
IN COOPERATION WITH
SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE ASSOCIATION OF JORDAN
PRESENTS

"CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN" Carnival

DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 1ST, 1994
TIME: 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.

PLACE: AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL
ENTRANCE FEE: 2 JD (INCLUDING SHOWS)
BEST PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME

SHOWS, GAMES, FUN, FOOD, SOFT DRINKS
ALL proceeds go to SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan
يرصد ربع هذا المهرجان كليا لصالح جمعية قري الاطفال الاردنية

SHOWS PRESENTED BY:
TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER
INDIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
HAYA CENTER
BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL
AL JEEL CLUB
NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL
AMMAN MODERN SCHOOLS
FUN MAKERS
CMS SCHOOL
PEPSI COLA
FINE

PHILADELPHIA CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURING CO (TODAY)
PEACE CHILD GROUP
FAWAZ ABU LAMA

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Jordan Times

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Why tourists can wait

WHEN JORDAN joined the Madrid peace conference in 1991, it did so out of a firm belief that this particular effort would serve, first and foremost, Jordanian and Arab own interests. By that time it had become clear that engaging the Israelis in peace talks was the only alternative to pressing on with a conflict that was taking us nowhere, save for more agony and suffering for the Palestinian people.

Peace has been, and will continue to be, an essential requirement for both our progress as a nation and regional stability and prosperity. Visions for it abound. But two and a half years after Madrid, those visions have failed to materialise towards achieving our stated goal; a comprehensive peace that protects the rights of all parties to the conflict on the basis of internationally recognised principles.

Has Jordan been in any way responsible for the lack of tangible progress, and if not, why are our people still in the dark on who is to blame and why?

There is no question that Jordan has done everything possible to advance the cause of peace. Where we are at fault, though, is that our people have not been told the whole story of why the peace talks have been so slow in producing real progress.

There has been a lack of strategy, accompanied by confusion, on telling Jordanians what they ought to know. Our people remain in the dark about what negotiators are addressing in their highly publicised, but by now less exciting meetings. If this is allowed to go on, support for the peace process will continue to fade by the day, we think.

Israel, Jordanians should get to know, has been pushing for a peace treaty that would be followed by discussion of the issues of conflict between Israel and Jordan. Jordan and rightfully so, has insisted all along that peace cannot be reached before differences over real issues have been ignored out. Israel talks of economic normalisation; Jordan first wants a political solution that sprouts from the essential elements of peace.

This Jordanian position should be articulated in a clear manner not only to the Israelis, to other Arabs but more importantly to the Jordanian people whose understanding of the peace process should not be spelled out by rejectionists who would only want to gloat: "We told you so."

The government should come out forcefully in explaining why it continues to engage in the peace effort and what it aims to achieve in the short and longer terms. Moreover, it should pursue its objective in the talks with Israel through a strategy that is understood and accepted by the Jordanians themselves.

There is nothing to fear from peace. But there is a lot to be worried about if this peace was borne out of pressures and the haste to get treaties signed to give the illusion of progress.

Economic normalisation, through joint tourism and business ventures and open borders, should come after Israel and Jordan have agreed on the premises of their future relations, after they have had enough guarantees about the safety of their interests and after having reached solutions to all outstanding problems.

Israel should agree to sit and discuss these basic issues before talking about a bright future without saying anything about how to create it. It should withdraw from occupied Jordanian territories and recognise Jordanian water rights as well as the legal and political rights of refugees. It should, most importantly, address the issue of sovereignty between neighbouring states before talking about regional security arrangements and cooperation.

If Israel is serious in its quest for peace with Jordan, why does it then refuse to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom. Why has it cancelled the border commission that was agreed upon with the United States. These are questions that leave a lot to doubt about Israel's intentions. And these are issues on which Jordan cannot compromise.

The government should explain to the people that progress has not been made because Israel has refused to address on essential concerns. That we should also explain to the world in a clear and confident language. No one would blame Jordan for insisting that Israel define its borders with the Kingdom before moving to talk about running tourist buses across the bridge.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily said that easing the siege on Aqaba by allowing inspection to take place in the port itself instead of on the high seas does not end the U.S.-imposed siege on Jordan. The continuation of the siege means the continuation of American pressure on Jordan to make it succumb to the U.S.-Israeli alliance and its ambitious designs in the region, said Ibrahim Al Absi. The siege did not come as an implementation of a U.N. decision, as the American media are trying to describe, but rather as a sole American decision and that is why the naval forces are all American not Russian, Chinese or British for that matter, said the writer. Noting that the siege was in effect a hostile action on the part of the United States against the Kingdom, the writer said that it was not logical to consider that the imports coming via the port for Jordan's needs would be in any way sufficient for 18 million Iraqis.

Warriors in the one true war: Deeds not words

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

One major problem in our society, among many others of course, is its tendency to talk more than to act, a tendency which has become even more obvious after the introduction of parliamentary life. We hold meetings, colloquia, seminars, symposia and conferences; we lecture, we discuss, we argue, we disagree, we agree, we recommend and (above all) we preach. Everybody is a lecturer, everybody is a preacher and everybody is wise and smart. What gets done? In essence very little, for much of what we talk about is ultimately promised to be dealt with later, is filed or is simply forgotten as time goes by.

Has our food or medicine improved in any significant way following the stormy food and medicine "scandal" which was heatedly and elegantly debated in the Parliament, the media and every home in the country? Has any of the so-called "sharks" been cut down to size? Has any corrupt government official, connected to the said scandal, been punished? More generally, has our environment become healthier in any serious way, even though we have said so much about it and created so many public and private bodies to tackle its various problems?

This is not to say that discussions and debates are useless; nor is it the intention here to belittle our society's advancement or progress. Far from it, for our society does work hard (at times), is developing and is rising. The point to underscore, however, is that we could do a lot more than we are doing, we could develop better than we are developing and we could rise higher than we are rising — if we worked more and talked less. There are many times when I feel that rhetoric has replaced deeds in our society.

Let's dwell on a couple of more examples. We hold lectures, seminars, and meetings on water conservation; the participants tell us to economise because water

in our part of the world is more valuable than oil and more precious than gold; the same night, the TV, in a "preachy" commercial-like announcement, warns "housewives" not to leave the kitchen faucet dripping. The following day, a bulldozer breaks a major water pipe and the water flows for hours or days. You call the concerned authorities anticipating a prompt response; in fact, you expect them to come by helicopter, the situation is so urgent and you have been keeping your kitchen faucet under complete control. But they do not. There was more water drainage and waste last summer than there is in a hundred years of faucet dripping. How much water will be wasted this forthcoming summer through pipe damage? (How much of the valuable rain which fell in the past two months have we stored?) And we are told to watch our faucets! Perhaps we ought to direct TV "sermons" on water conservation not to poor "housewives" but to the concerned government authorities and officials themselves? They need to take their own sermons seriously, before they expect poor housewives to. Charity begins at home. Pull your act together folks!

We also hold seminars and conferences on education. Our experts at the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education and the universities conduct tonnes of research on the syllabus, methods of teaching, the teacher's role, the student's performance, attitude, ability and personality. We offer masters and Ph.D. programmes on teaching and education. We have educational TV which airs lessons on nearly all subjects, we have teachers go to specialised colloquia and workshops to discuss how to teach, and we bring experts from abroad to exchange views with. What is the result? Neither the teacher's performance nor the student's is improving in any substantial way. Year after year (and the situation seems to get worse every year), the majority of students finish the tawjihi and come to us at the universities weak in Arabic, English,

Math, Physics, etc. Year after year also, our universities graduate students most of whom (though certainly not all) fall extremely short of our expectations: the English major does not know English, the Arabic major does not know Arabic and the computer science major is miserable in computer science. What is the use then of the meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences and (above all) research? There are many causes of this particular intricate problem, to be sure. But the main problem, in my humble opinion, is that we talk about teaching more than we teach, we write about education more than we educate; and we recommend, file and store more than we implement.

With due respect to the opinions, theories, studies and "sermons" of teaching officials, educators and planners, I believe the problem is simpler than we think and the solution is easier. Let's choose our teachers carefully and let's let them teach with as little interference as possible, and with as little sermonising. A teacher, to quote Ben Jonson, is "born" not "made." Teaching is a profession where you either have it or you don't. A teacher is a personality first and foremost. Choose the wrong person and no theories, no education and no certificates will turn him/her into a good teacher; choose the right person, on the other hand, and he/she shall excel without any knowledge of theories, methods of teaching or without any workshops. This sounds unprofessional to say, seminars and workshops. Let's cut the nonsense and get down to business, but it is true. Let's not drown in a sea of words, I hope there will be more deeds than preachers amongst us. Islam ties true faith to deeds not words, for deeds lie behind true progress and development. And Thomas Carlyle says it well: "Awake, ye noble workers, warriors in the one true war.... It is to you I call: ye know at least this, that the mandate of God to His creature man is: work!" We need work and deeds, not words.

'Now you'll see! Zhirinovsky will restore Russia's greatness by forming a coalition of nationalists and socialists!'

DANZIGER
The Christian Science Monitor.
Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



'I see. National Socialism...'

Hard-headed help for a changing Russia

By Richard Nixon

NEW YORK — Those who suggest that because of its vast problems Russia should no longer be treated as a world power ignore an unpleasant but undeniable truth: Russia is the only nation in the world that can destroy the United States.

Therefore Russia remains America's highest foreign-policy priority.

The Russia I saw on my latest trip is a very different nation from the one I visited just one year ago. Optimism about the future is being replaced by pessimism. A strongly pro-American attitude has in many cases become disturbingly anti-American. Boris Yeltsin is still a political heavyweight but he is no longer a superman.

When Russia was a dictatorship as part of the Soviet Union a good relationship with the man at the top was all that was necessary. This is no longer enough.

Not all the news is bad. Contrary to some reports in the western media, the departure of some prominent reformers from the government does not mean the abandonment of reform. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will continue to implement free-market reforms. Though the programme would be more gradual, government leaders say, it would also be more comprehensive and not limited to a tight monetary policy.

But Russia's political scene can only be described as chaotic.

Mr. Yeltsin has lost much of the mystique from his historic role in the destruction of Soviet communism. He may be finding that history is against him.

Over the centuries, revolutionary leaders have not been good nation builders. But it would be premature to write Mr. Yeltsin off because of his frequent absences from Moscow and his increasingly erratic conduct.

The first freely elected president in Russia history, he is still the country's most popular politician — the best guarantor of Russia democracy and stability until his term expires in 1996. The United States should treat him with respect and work closely with him.

But America should also pay

more attention to the new generation of Russian leaders — many of whom I met — such as Grigori Yavlinski, an impressive young economist; Sergei Shakhrai, the analytically minded minister of nationalities; and the formidable economics minister, Alexander Shokhin. All in their late 30s or early 40s, they are not yet ready for top leadership, but they are without question presidential material. The 55-year-old prime minister is now generally acknowledged to be the front-runner to succeed Mr. Yeltsin.

All the key opposition figures — and I met with them all, including the Communist leader Gennadi Zyuganov, the Liberal Democratic Party chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and former Vice President Alexander Rutskoi — stated categorically that there can be no return to the Soviet past. And all assured me that they would pursue their objectives through constitutional means.

Mr. Zyuganov is an impressive Communist Party hardliner, but when I asked him if the nation could ever return to communism, he ruefully replied, "No, we cannot cross the same river twice."

After 75 years of godless communism, in Russia today God is alive and communism is dead.

Although Mr. Yeltsin reacted negatively to my seeing Mr. Rutskoi, he should realise that Rutskoi supporters will split the Zhirinovskiy vote, reducing the threat.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy is a ruthless, shrewd demagogue. But after examining him at length on issues ranging from his views on foreign policy to his attitude towards the United States and anti-Semitism, I share the view of President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine: He will not be elected president of Russia.

He lacks the presence and conviction to lead a great nation. When I questioned him about some of his ludicrous statements — that California would one day be part of Mexico, that Miami would be a black republic, that Paris would be an Arab city — he referred to opinion polls about his popularity.

One of his top associates, who had attended our meeting, said later that Mr. Zhirinovskiy had intentionally adopted the

extravagant posture of a holy fool. For centuries, these *yurodivyi* were opposition figures whose very inadequacy protected them from brutal repression. Although Russians have always had a soft spot for holy fools, they have never chosen them as their leaders — as Mr. Zhirinovskiy will soon discover when he enters the presidential sweepstakes.

The most disturbing development since the December election has been the sea change in Russia's foreign policy. The rhetoric of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev has shifted 180 degrees. Before the election, he was too pro-American for his own good. Now he has changed his emphasis on universal human values and commonality of interests with America to a renewed Russian superpower role and the need for Moscow to chart its own course. It is without question a change of the head, not the heart. He has read the election returns and is reacting like any other politician.

Most important, the United States should be candid with Russia when our views do not coincide. We are great world powers and our interests will inevitably clash, but the greatest mistake we can make is to try to down differences in Champagne and vodka toasts at "feel-good" summit meetings. The highest art of diplomacy is not to paper over irresolvable differences with gobbledygook, but to find a way to disagree without damaging profoundly important strategic relationships.

In implementing the Partnership for Peace, the West cannot allow Russia to determine the future of NATO. The alliance is too important to the United States and to Europe to be sacrificed for the sake of Russian sensitivity.

Moscow should be offered guarantees that NATO expansion to include Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia will take place gradually and will not endanger Russian interests. If Russia does not find those guarantees adequate, we will have to agree to disagree. Russia must not be given a veto over a NATO decision to expand.

Russia has legitimate interests in the region, particularly for the protection of 25 million Russians in the former Soviet republics who suddenly

are foreigners in their own land.

The claim that Russia is again becoming an imperialist power is exaggerated. Despite their imperial nostalgia, most Russians and their leaders are reluctant to engage in new adventures or even accept economic responsibility for the other newly independent states.

The independence of all the former Soviet states is important. The independence of Ukraine is indispensable. A Russian-Ukrainian confrontation would make Bosnia look like a Sunday-school picnic.

Moscow should be made to understand that any attempt to destabilise Ukraine would have devastating consequences for the Russian-American relationship.

Ukrainian stability is in the strategic interest of the United States. To the extent that Kiev is prepared to proceed with economic reforms, supporting these efforts should be a U.S. national security priority.

I found no one who had a good word for the U.S. aid programme.

The issue is not the amount but how it is administered. Rip-offs, shakedowns and corruption among recipients, along with incompetence among administrators, have created enormous disillusionment.

President Bill Clinton would be well-advised to order an immediate comprehensive review of aid to Russia and the other former Soviet states.

Reform is in the interest of freedom. Its success would provide an example for others to follow; its failure would embolden dictators and would-be dictators everywhere. It is a miracle that the new Russian revolution still shows promise. The reformers may fail even with our help. They will certainly fail without it.

Mr. Clinton deserves bipartisan support on providing adequate aid to the forces of freedom in Russia.

But this support should be hard-headed, without illusions about Russian conduct and without the sacrifice of U.S. interests.

The former U.S. President returned last week from his 10th trip to Moscow in 35 years. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

LETTERS

Labour by the norm

To the Editor:

We refer to the article "Ordeal of Indian farm workers in 3rd month" (Jordan Times, March 19, 1994) and would like to take this opportunity not only to exercise our right to reply, but to negate any allegations that we have not been available for comment.

We were most anxious that an amicable settlement be reached with the farm workers in order that they might avoid the uncomfortable living conditions provided by their country's diplomatic mission here in Amman. However, all solutions that have been offered in an attempt at resolving the conflict have been met with hostility in one form or another.

This unpleasant state of affairs is not one that we wish to nurture, for two reasons: first, our organisational policy precludes us from entering into polemics. Second, and more important, we do not wish to disturb the excellent relations between the governments and people of Jordan and India.

We have been recruiting Indian farm workers to the Jordan Valley for the past 10 years, and several of our employees have been with us for the entire period. We have always offered relatively favourable working conditions and the number of employees that have come back to work for us on their return from India (along with relatives) bears credence to this fact.

We thoroughly reject the notion of slavery and its associations. Most restrictions are placed on the farm workers prior to their arrival by the respective employment agencies they are under contract with. As far as we are concerned, our system has always been to pay employees on an hourly basis; this fact, along with working conditions, living conditions and other benefits are all known to employees prior to the commencement of their employment.

All prospective employees are well aware of the terms mentioned above and agree to them prior to their arrival. There have been no instances where dues have been "held back several months." Two months' pay has been held in cases where individuals have requested instant cash settlements in lieu of airline tickets; if a two-year contract cannot be completed for any reason, the two-month retainer is used to cover the cost of travel expenses home. This is our right due to the fact that as guarantors of the employee concerned, we are obliged to ensure that he returns to his point of origin once he has left our employ.

We do not feel that we have reneged on our responsibility with regard to living conditions; we have erected adequate living quarters in accordance with National Health and Safety regulations. However, in the past, our farm labourers have opted to build their own accommodation nearer to their work site and we have allowed them to do so on any piece of land they saw fit. Needless to say, farm labourers have also had access to the same quality of drinking water currently available to the entire population of the Jordan Valley; to our knowledge, ailments related to water pollution are purely imaginary.

We have repeatedly been in contact with the Indian embassy in order to resolve the situation. As all the solutions that we have presented to date have been rejected out of hand, we cannot help but feel that the farm workers in question have been subject to some outside pressure. We would like to reiterate that it is not our option to deport any employee for intimidation purposes, nor do we wish to keep anyone in our employ against their will. However, in adherence to local laws stipulated by the Ministry of Labour and the Immigration Department, we are responsible for labourers that we bring to this country, and must therefore bear the financial implications of this and take the necessary steps to guarantee their behaviour.

It would seem that you have either been misinformed or have mishandled the contents of your article; we have no objection to settling outstanding salaries on the provision of a round trip ticket. We are equally willing to pay the air fare and work permit fees for any employee who has served his full term. In the event that an individual no longer wishes to be employed by us, he is quite free to leave the country at his own expense, or to contact the local authorities and arrange for our guarantee to be lifted, thus releasing us of any future responsibility towards him. In both cases, he will either be entitled to any outstanding dues, or he will owe dues to us.

We have not been guilty of enforcing "thumbprints" from any employee; frankly a ludicrous suggestion given the fact committed themselves contractually to us, of their own accord; in question have been manipulated as part of a wider political manoeuvre. Despite this, we have no objection to forming another committee on which local authorities are represented in a bid to settle this outstanding dispute once and for all. We are most serious in our intention to reach an amicable solution of all parties concerned.

We have no objection to the route that our employees wish to take. They are welcome to report back to work in order to fulfil their contractual obligations; conversely, they are free to return to their country at their own expense or to apply to the Ministry of Labour for an official application to seek alternative employment and lift our guarantee. We are still prepared to provide employees with the same conditions available throughout the Jordan Valley. We thoroughly reject the notion that we should begin to allow our employees rights over and above the accepted norm in the region.

Riyad Shaheen,
Vice President,
Personnel & Human Resources,
Amman

Objectivity is essential in cultural, intellectual dialogue

By Mohammad Mashariqa

It would not be exaggerating to say that intellectual and cultural dialogue currently going on in Jordan lacks objectivity and rationality. This is largely due to the fact that many of the attitudes of those conducting the dialogue are influenced by sentiments and ideological bigotry that can by no means be justified legally, scientifically or logically.

Perhaps the most striking piece of evidence to support this view lies in the replies often given by the parties involved in dialogue and which often take the form of unjust accusations and recriminations.

Some people who follow up on cultural developments in Jordan attribute this phenomenon to the fact that Jordanians have long been unused to democratic dialogue and unfamiliar with the practice of respecting other persons' views. They also attribute this situation to the absence of social democratic institutions in the past four decades.

In the past 40 years, the political authority in the country had assumed monopoly over historic facts, the Jordanian society, its trend and people's aspirations for development. This authority claimed that the situation did not allow for openness and public participation in the decision-making process. It alleged the public was not mature enough for this right.

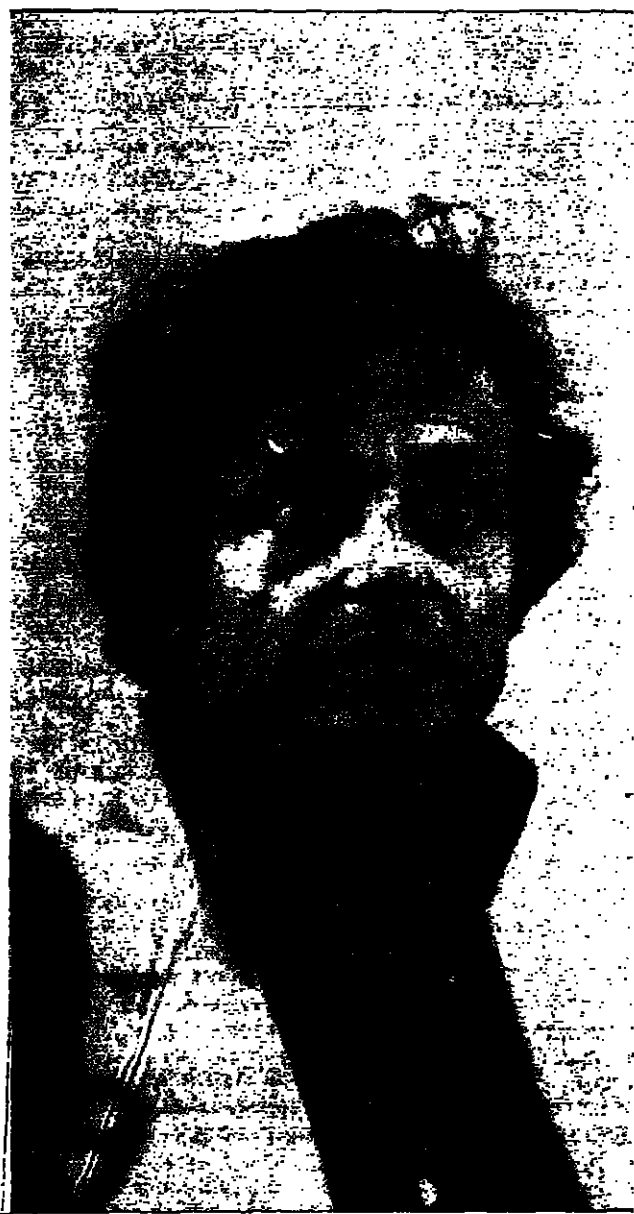
Subsequently all ideologies and opposition views were suppressed, stifled and were banned as harmful and which tend to serve foreign parties.

Consequently and as a direct result of this practice, for a long time most of the political movements that existed in the Kingdom since the 1950s have themselves been affected by this negative attitude, and have come to consider themselves as the sole representative of the people's aspirations, regardless of the public feelings in this matter.

This has had its adverse effects on inter-relations among the various groups and parties and so the concepts of intellectual coercion and repression have become wide-spread. Some of those involved in dialogues have started accusing others of being dissidents committing treachery and betrayal and of being supportive of and playing into the hands of the security services.

In the view of many intellectuals, the past four years were not sufficient to enable Jordanians to acquire new democratic habits like peacefully coexisting with others and accepting and respecting their views.

What prompted me to present this introduction is the form and content of the current dialogue which is being conducted in an arbitrary form and revolving around



Adonis

what has been called "cultural normalisation with the Zionist enemy" and means of confronting this trend. A committee formed by the Jordanian Writers Association to resist the so-called normalisation process has

declared what can be described as a religious excommunication against other writers who might meet or hold contact with any Israeli writer. The committee's ban also covers everything that could be published or reproduced by the Israeli media.

Quite a good number of Jordanian writers have been wondering over this trend and if their quest to preserve and protect national culture can be achieved by way of assailing and disqualifying leading Arab intellectuals and writers who had been instrumental in promoting Arab culture like Adonis, Emil Habibi, Mahmoud Darwish and Amin Maalouf. These prominent writers and poets have been the subject of defamation and hostile campaigns for their views and ideologies by groups who never resorted to reason or rational thinking, and who refrained from opening a dialogue with these intellectuals in order to listen to their views over questions related to the future of Arab culture in the light of developments around us, particularly their concepts about Israeli culture.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Perhaps the latest form of intellectuals coercion and repression was manifested in the views of certain Jordanian writers vis-a-vis a government invitation to the Arab poet Adonis to participate in the Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture this year. Fakhri Kwar, former president of the Jordanian Writers Association and the present secretary general of the Arab Writers Federation, has openly condemned such invitation because, he said, Adonis had published an article in an Israeli newspaper. Of course Kwar has failed to refer to the article's nature and contents and failed also to notice that the published article was in reality a translated version reproduced from a French news paper.

For his part, the Jordan Engineers Association president volunteered to issue a statement accusing the poet Adonis of being among the main advocates of the normalisation process with the "Zionist enemy."

He accused Adonis of attending a meeting with Zionist writers during the Granada cultural conference. He voiced his association's condemnation of the government's invitation to Adonis, demanding that the government cancel it.

All this is happening while the Jordanian readers are not allowed to read the contents of Adonis's article. In that article, Adonis challenged the Arab media to publish his article in Arabic after it had been translated

into German, English, French and Swedish.

Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper which is published in London has reproduced the article in which Adonis criticises the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Adonis describes Saddam as a dictator who has no regard to human beings or to freedom. But at the same time Adonis asks why the West has been so late in announcing the truth about Saddam and why was the West silent over the alleged previous massacres he had committed against his own people and during the war with Iran which cost a million lives.

Adonis asks why the Western conscience has not yet awakened and demanded justice and rights for the Arab citizens who are deprived of human rights and democracy and why has the West supported repressive regimes. Why, asks Adonis, do the Western countries continue to provide aid to Israel while realising that their backing is bound to perpetuate the war with the Arabs. "It is because the Western nations want to keep the conflict in order to continue marketing their weapons to both the Israelis and the Arabs."

Addressing Western intelligentsia, Adonis says the war on Iraq has not put an end to dictatorship there, but has succeeded in demolishing the Iraqi people's cultural achievements. "What is happening is a Western attempt to replace one anti-U.S. dictator with another serving as America's stooge in the region."

In Adonis's view, the Arabs have themselves to blame because he says liberation starts on Arab land where the Arabs ought to set up regimes and institutions that believe in and promote dialogue and which respect human rights and human freedoms. He says the Arabs are in need for institutions that strive to attain self-sufficiency and help the Arab nation regain its self-confidence.

BOOK REVIEW

Living stones

The Forgotten Faithful: The Christians of the Holy Land

By Said K. Aburish
Quartet Books, London 1993, £14.95

Regardless of discrepancies in their estimations of the current population of Christian Palestinians in the territories Israel occupied in 1967 (Aburish's unrefereed estimate of 42,000 falls short of Bernard Sabella's recent and authoritative accounting by more than 8,000), all commentators on this small but influential group agree that its current state is dire. Christian emigration, always higher than that of other Palestinian communities, has intensified in the wake of the intifada as strikes and state attacks on the Palestinian economy have throttled the businesses of the largely urban Christian population. Alarm bells are finally beginning to be heard in the West, as this summer's London conference on threats to the survival of the community shows. In this context a book providing an informed and intelligent analysis of the predicament of Christian Palestinians would play an important part in mobilising external support for Palestinians under occupation. Unfortunately Said Aburish's *The Forgotten Faithful* is not this book.

Aburish has interviewed many Palestinians — both Christian and Muslim — in the territories and what strength the book has lies in his transcriptions of these interviews. A reader who attends carefully to what Aburish's subjects have to say will learn a lot about the role played by Christians in supporting the struggle for national liberation. Aburish, however, does not give credence to his interlocutors and dismisses statements made by them as examples of "the traditional Arab way of pretending things aren't what they are". Although he acknowledges Israeli depredations, Aburish is convinced that the most salient threat to the survival of Palestinian Christianity is not the Israeli occupation but the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, and he gives substance to his argument by citing a number of unsubstantiated stories by unnamed informants of murders of missionaries, cases of Christian children forced to recite the Koran in school, desecrations of Christian cemeteries and raisings of "the Crescent" on top of church towers.

His named informants claim that Muslims and Christians continue to live together and to struggle jointly against Israeli occupation, but Aburish dismisses these claims harshly, claiming, for example, that Jiriyis Khoury, director of the Tantur-based Al Liqa Centre for Religious Study in the Holy Land, is "a rabid Palestinian nationalist" who masks the truth of Muslim-Christian antipathy behind "a diplomatic smokescreen". Aburish's refusal to take people at their word drives this reviewer to see the spelling errors which dot the text (Hamas is rendered as "Hammas", Mea She'arim as "Mai Shairim" and Aghazarian as "Aggezarian") not as examples of carelessness but as symptoms of a general tendency to impose uninformed opinion over given facts.

The *Forgotten Faithful* has proved popular among some readers in Europe and North America, but its favour it has found testifies not to its accuracy but to its ability to appeal to the West's new obsession with Islam as global antagonist. Aburish's assertion that "the natural divide between Islam and Christianity has widened", like his description of Muslims who "automatically fall in line and begin to pray... (when they hear)... the electronically aided loudspeaker... bellowing a loud call to prayer", feeds the orientalist antipathies of people more interested in a new crusade against Islam. One of Aburish's informants responds to his theory of the Islamic threat to Palestinian Christians by saying "you're sounding off like the rest of them: you want to create a diversion". I can only agree — Middle East International.

Glen Bowman

Samoa to honour Treasure Island author a century after his death

By Michael Field
Agence France Presse

AUCKLAND — A century after Treasure Island author Robert Louis Stevenson was buried on a Samoan mountain top the house he built is being restored to its original glory — largely through the efforts of the U.S. Mormon Church.

The Scottish-born Stevenson, whose credits also included *Kidnapped* and *The Strange Case Of Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde*, lived in Western Samoa from 1891 until his death in 1894, building a house at Vailima, in the forest-clad mountains overlooking Apia.

When Germany took over Samoa in 1900 Stevenson's home became the governor's residence and underwent the first numerous changes. New Zealand changed it even more and with independence in 1968 it became the head of state's official residence.

After cyclones in 1990 and 1992 made Vailima uninhabitable three former Mormon missionaries who had served in Samoa won an exclusive government franchise for their museum trust to develop the house.

They caused international outrage with a plan to build a funicular railway up to the author's tomb on Mount Vaea, but dropped it in the face of criticism.

Seuili Paul Wallwork, a government representative on

the trust, said Friday that the six million-tala (\$2.5 million) renovation of the premises was likely to be completed by October, in time for the 100th anniversary of Stevenson's death on Dec. 3.

"Everything has been pulled down and put up again," he said. "There have been minor problems, we've had to replace a lot of the timber that was old and rotten, but much of it was in good condition. We've tried to renovate it to the same building Stevenson built."

In a concession to cyclones, the building is, in effect, tied down now.

A collector in Hawaii has much of the original furniture, and it will be loaned to the house while the trust, using teak from the Vailima property, will make new chairs and tables.

When Stevenson first built the house it was in the midst of forest, but is now surrounded by park land and gardens, fronted by what was called the "road of loving hearts," built by Chief Mata'afa to take Stevenson's body up Vaea.

"The place will be beautiful and it will be the biggest tourist attraction for Samoa in future," Mr. Wallwork said.

During his Samoan years, Stevenson sided with the Mata'afa faction in a series of civil wars inspired by Germany, Britain and the United States, which were jostling for control of the country.

His advocacy of Samoans, and his recognition as a novelist, won him the Samoan name "Tusitala," or teller of tales.

But Mr. Wallwork said modern Samoans know little of him.

"There is very little feeling among Samoans. They know of Tusitala only and we will run an educational programme at the end of the year of some of the plays and poetry from Stevenson."

His books have not been taught in Samoa for years, but in the week around the centenary the country will focus on the writer.

Most will, if fit, make the steep walk up Vaea to the whitewashed tomb where Stevenson is buried, along with the ashes of his wife Fanny. The tomb is unchanged since the author's burial and its main panel stands as testimony to his enduring work:

Under the wide and starry sky.
Dig the grave and let me lie.
Glad did I live and gladly die.
And I laid me down with a will.

This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he longed to be;
Home is the sailor, home from the sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.

Britons seek a cure for acute niceness

By Richard Meares
Reuters

LONDON — The cavalry is coming for desperately polite Britons who get pushed aside in queues or cornered in the kitchen by party bores, whose house guests will not leave or whose workmates abuse their goodwill.

From an ordinary-looking house in North London, an awfully affable American and her British partner are masterminding a war on niceness, the stereotype characteristic of the British.

Their willing victims, fed up with being used as doormats by colleagues, family or friends, turn up for "The Nice Factor", a weekend course designed to loosen their stiff upper lips and sharpen their tongues.

"The disease of niceness cripples more lives than

alcoholism," said Raymond Chandler, a British actor who hopes to teach pushovers how to get their way more often.

"We are not against being nice itself, but we try to help people who are always nice — even to people who do not deserve it — and whose lips always say 'yes' when their minds say 'no'."

"But we are not teaching people to be nasty. Niceness and nastiness are in fact closely related. People who spend all day being nice are more likely to suddenly flip and have a tantrum. We want to show people how to occupy the middle ground."

Architects, company directors, housewives and lawyers are among several dozen people who have paid their £150 (\$225) in the hope of being freed from

excessive niceness. In games and role-playing they dabble with the novelty of saying "no", "get lost", or "I insist" and try to hold their ground in a row.

The aim is to stop worrying what others think. Stop adapting behaviour to please others and to start getting what they want.

In one game, one person asks another to make a cup of tea, but the second refuses. They have to go on as long as they can.

"Some people give up instantly. But we have had people going on for 20 minutes," Chandler said.

In another exercise the group forms a circle. You have to be nice to the person on your right, and nasty to the left.

"What a lovely outfit you are wearing," one man told the woman to his right. "What's it like being

short?" she replied. Chandler's New York partner Jo Ellen Grzyb, who confesses she used to say sorry to plants or pieces of furniture she bumped into, says that so far only one person has proved incurably nice and fled from the course.

She says anyone is welcome to The Nice Factor, but doubts that she could help any politicians — even "nice" Prime Minister John Major, whose colleagues would love him to act tougher.

"No politicians are nice. That's an oxymoron," she said. "Major's problem is certainly not that he is nice, just that he does not have the image of a hard politician which he needs."

Happy customers say the course has made their lives easier.

"Sporting when I was in

'nice mode' was half the fight," said 30-year-old Julia Hall, who runs a market research company where she was too soft on her workforce. "Now I can decide when to be nice and when to put my foot down."

Training manager Tony Farley said: "I'm nicer to my kids now. I am less frustrated at work so I take it out on them less."

Many agree that being British has made the problem worse.

"People here think if you aren't being 'nice' you're horrid. It's definitely a particularly British problem," said Isobel Brown, a 38-year-old lawyer. "We're a non-confrontational culture."

AIDS counsellor Judy Gosmore said she thought a whole mental attitude went along with the British way of asking questions in a

contorted, apologetic way, such as: "I hope I'm not troubling you but I was wondering, would you mind awfully if I opened the window?"

Ms. Grzyb, who tries to get her acutely polite patients to be sparing with apologies, said nice Americans found it easier to complain and argue than Britons but shared the same root problem of always changing their behaviour to suit other people.

Sometimes, she said, there was no substitute to bluntness.

So, if a party bore spots you as a natural victim by the way you enter the room, looking as if you expect to be cornered at any moment, she suggests you say:

"Look. I find what you are saying incredibly boring. I am going to talk to someone else now. Goodbye."

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Curtains up ... European Film Festival begins

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Lights out, curtains up and projectors rolling... it's time for the European Film Festival. This year's selection includes several dramas on social injustice as experienced by families and their endeavours to cope, escape and fight back.

The films take us from 19th century feudal scenes in Flanders, to the streets of St. Louis in the U.S. where a modern-day, Italian, single-parent family sets out to make a new life for itself.

There is also adventure, emotion and personal communication packed into an "a pied" journey through the countryside and up above the southern mountains of the Netherlands.

The selections include many international award winners of the last decade and three films directed by women.

In all, 10 films will be presented at the Royal Cultural Centre starting April 1.

Greece currently holds the presidency of the European Union (EU), and as is the custom, a Greek film is slated to open the festival. The land of theatre this year offers Jordan "Petrina Chronia" (Stone Years).

Director Pantelis Voulgaris
Screenplay Pantelis Voulgaris
Cast Themis Bazaka
Dimitris Katalifos
Maria Marika
Irene Iglesi
Nikos Birbilis
Ilias Katavas
Thanos Grammenos

Year of Production: 1985
Language Greek with English subtitles
Duration 135 minutes

Stone Years is the true story of a couple's love and commitment told against the background of turbulent Greek politics from the end of the civil war to the fall of the military dictatorship. According to director Pantelis Voulgaris, "One has only to consider the fact that after the civil war of 1949 and the defeat of the leftist movement, censorship of one form or another, at times grim and obvious, at others devious and subtle, has kept the true history of this country far from motion picture screens." This film, he says, is a small tribute to the Greek people, like the heroes Babis and Eleni, who lived through these twenty "Stone Years."

Described as full of tenderness and hope, and based on true events, the film chronicles the alienation of a country and a couple.

Stone Years won the Grand Prix and awards for best director and best actress at the 1985 Thessaloniki Film Festival. Actress Themis Bazaka won a special mention at the Venice Film Festival of 1985 for her role as Eleni.

From Denmark we have Director Peter Schroder's "Der Forsomente Forar" (Stolen Spring), a masterful blend of suspense and satire.

Director Peter Schroder
Screenplay Peter Bay and Peter Schroder, from the novel by Hans Scherfig

Cast Frits Helmuth
Thomas Willum Jensen
Adam Simonsen
Rene Hansen
Ken Vegsgaard

Year of Production: 1993
Language Danish with English subtitles
Duration 135 minutes

Beginning with the murder of senior master Blomme, a Latin teacher, this story introduces us to a group of Blomme's former pupils at their school reunion some decades later. Wine and folly inspire the men to high flown praise of their schooldays.

But in flash-backs we are given another impression of their youth. The humiliations, exaggerated discipline, the abusive Blomme and over eager parents, leave us thinking that one of them could be guilty of murdering their Latin teacher.

The film is based on Hans Scherfig's best-selling Danish classic. Translated into several languages, this novel was described in the New York Times Book Review as a stinging indictment of an absurd and stultifying school system.

As a grinding satire on the socialisation and education of society's upper-crust, Scherfig's story, says film director Schroder, is not new, but it is still highly relevant. Today, he says, rigorous demands are made on young people to achieve, and this, he adds, is often at the expense of creativity, and at the expense of spring.

Britain's contribution to European Film Week is the highly acclaimed Howard's End in which Emma Thompson won the 1993 Academy Award for Best Actress in her role as Margaret Schlegel. The E.M. Forster adaptation also took the BAFTA awards for Best Film and, again, Best Actress.

Director James Ivory
Screenplay Ruth Praver Jhabwala from the novel by E.M. Forster
Cast Emma Thompson
Anthony Hopkins
Vanessa Redgrave
Helena Bonham-Carter

Year of Production: 1993
Language English
Duration 136 minutes



Emma Thompson (left) and Helena Bonham-Carter in Howard's End



Themis Bazaka as Eleni and Dimitris Katalifos as Babis in the Greek film Stone Years.

Howard's End begins in 1910 and tells the story of the developing relationships between members of two families, the Wilcoxes and the Schlegels, and a couple, the Bastis, with whom they are both linked. Margaret Schlegel lives in London with her sister Helen, who is invited to stay with Henry and Ruth Wilcox and their family at their country home, Howard's End.

Months later the Wilcoxes move temporarily to their London home, close to the Schlegels who have become involved with Leonard Bast and his companion, Jacky (soon to be his wife). Mrs. Wilcox, who is very ill, develops a close friendship with Margaret Schlegel and writes a note bequeathing Howard's End to her. On Mrs. Wilcox's death, Henry and his children destroy the note.

As time passes the Bastis' affairs suffer, partly due to the well-meaning interference of the Schlegels, while Henry Wilcox befriends Margaret and subsequently proposes that they marry. Margaret accepts. But first she joins Henry for his daughter's wedding, and it is at the celebration that the complex relationship between the Wilcoxes, Schlegels and Bastis reaches a climax.

No journey by a group of people is ever simply an experience of getting from one point to another, nor is Above The Mountains, the Dutch film about six individuals who undertake a trip on foot from the northern tip of the Netherlands to its southern end.

Director Digna Sinks
Screenplay Roos Blaauwer
Catherine Ten Bruggencate
Eric Curtin
Renne Fokker
Esco Heil
Johan Leyzen

Year of Production: 1992
Language Dutch with English subtitles
Duration 107 minutes

On the day our six travellers are due to depart, everything appears to go wrong: Vincent and his wife Helen will only be able to join the others a few days later. For JP — aged 18, the youngest in the party and a great admirer of Vincent — this is reason enough not to want to go along.

Still, grumbling and reluctant, he sets out with the rest.

As the journey progresses the members of the group are confronted with their own emotional, social and intellectual problems.

Screenwriter Hugo Claus took the 1903 novel of Cyriel Buysse and wrote "Het Gezin Van Paemel" (The Van Paemel Family) for the silver screen. The Belgian script maintains Buysse's use of colloquial Flemish to take the viewer into the social inequalities of 19th century Flanders, which, says Claus, exist in today's world.

Director Paul Camermans
Screenplay Hugo Claus from the novel by Cyriel Buysse
Cast Senne Roufaer
Chris Boni
Marilke Pinoy
Ille Geldhof
Jos Verbiest
Language Flemish with English subtitles

The drama of the disintegration of the Van Paemel family takes place in Flanders at the end of the 19th century. The social revolution is commencing; the people are reacting against the excesses of the rich and their feudal manners.

The Van Paemel father is a farmer on the estate of the Baron de Wilde. During a hunting party on the baron's estate, his younger son, Desire Van Paemel, a gentle and affable young man, is seriously wounded. He remains an invalid.

The elder Van Paemel son, Edouard, is a member of the Socialist Workers Party and is active in strikes in the town. The elder daughter Cordule, against her father's wishes, has a liaison with the smuggler Masco, and the younger daughter Romaine is forced to work in the chateau where she is seduced by the baron's son, Maurice.

At this point the situation deteriorates, and it is during the marriage celebrations of Maurice that Desire, formerly so gentle, takes revenge.

French director Claire Devers brings action and suspense to "Max et Jeremie" (Max and Jeremy), a tale of three solitary, disenchanted people who find friendship, of a sort.

Director Claire Devers
Screenplay From the Teri White novel The Lamentations Of Jeremiah
Cast Philippe Nolret
Christophe Lambert
Jean-Pierre Marielle
Christophe Odent
Feodor Chalapin, Jr.

Year of Production: 1992
Language French with English subtitles
Duration 115 minutes

Jeremy is a young hooligan like any other. Max is a

retired hitman. Elegant and refined, Max lives in luxury and solitude, until the day Jeremy enters his life.

Everything separates them, and everything will bring them together.

And as the duo is often an unacknowledged trio — a third strand to the story — Max, who pretends never to have had a friend, has a very close enemy.

Almeida is a police officer, who for 40 years has followed Max like a shadow, but he has neither gathered enough evidence to put Max behind bars nor enough courage to try. And so after all this time, they have somehow naturally become attached to each other.

Italy's "Fratelli E Sorelle" (Brothers And Sisters) is a story about two young boys enduring a painful family crisis.

Director Pupi Avati
Screenplay Pupi Avati
Cast Franco Nero
Paola Bonaiuto
Anna Bonaiuto
Lino Capolicchio
Luciano Federico

Year of Production: 1992
Language Italian with English subtitles
Duration 106 minutes

Gloria discovers after 22 years of marriage that her husband has been cheating on her. Accompanied by her two sons, the 18-year-old Matteo and Francesco (16), she goes to stay with her sister in the United States. Matteo wastes no time in settling in to his new life, but for Francesco, shy and full of complexes, difficulties are magnified. His telephone calls with his father, his relationship with his mother who is looking for comfort in new friendships.

Francesco finds himself completely alone. His relationship with his brother becomes complicated by their competition for the same girl. Francesco has no other choice but to close himself in further in his own world.

In the end, when all hope of seeing the family reunited seems to have vanished, a recouped sense of solidarity with his brother gives Francesco a new chance.

In the 1984 Spanish film titled "Los Santos Inocentes" (The Holy Innocents) we are introduced to a peasant-class family that, like so many, dreams of escaping their life of poverty forced on them by the socio-economic structure of the system that imprisons them.

Director Mario Camus
Screenplay Antonio Larreta, Manuel Matji and Mario Camus, from the novel by Miguel Delibes
Cast Alfredo Landa
Francisco Rabal
Terele Pavez
Juan Diego
Maribel Martin

Year of Production: 1984
Language Spanish with English subtitles
Duration 105 minutes

Living under the force of an upper class that owns the land and resources they need to survive, this Spanish



A scene from the Danish film Stolen Spring

family sets out to learn to read and write and to express themselves so that they can improve their lot. Everything has been self-sacrifice and obedience. Their fate has been decreed for many generations, and only something violent, something absolutely novel, something extraordinary will smash to pieces the life they have so long been condemned to suffer.

Los Santos Inocentes won the Golden Palm Award for Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor at the 1984 Cannes Film Festival.

The European Film Festival's German entry is "Abgeschminkt!" (Making Up Germany), a film about a cartoonist named Frenzy, who uses the experiences of her girlfriend Maischa and works them into her weekly cartoon "Rubi, the Mosquito Woman."

Director Katja Von Garnier
Screenplay Katja Von Garnier
Cast Katja Riemann
Nina Kronjager
Gedeon Burkhard
Max Tidof
Daniela Lunkewitz
Language German with English subtitle
Duration 55 minutes

As the film opens, Frenzy is in a state of panic. She has run out of ideas, and after the weekend she has to come up with a new story with a positive touch, because her editors have been critical of her recent increase in cynicism.

She persuades Maischa to come to her place and spend the weekend with her, planning a visit to an exhibition opening the first evening, in spite of Maischa's objections.

At the exhibition Maischa suddenly sets her eyes on Rene, who henceforth becomes the object of her desires. By various strategies and with the help of Frenzy, Maischa manages to attract Rene's attention.

A rendezvous seems almost within her grasp; but will only come about if Frenzy agrees to take care of Mark (Maischa's latest flame) and show him the town on the evening of Rene's visit.

As was the practice last year, the organisers give movie-goers two opportunities to see most of this year line-up of some of Europe's finest works in the cinema. The first showing of most films begins at 8:00 p.m. or evening; it is shown again the following afternoon at 5:00 p.m. The March 31st showing of Petrina Chronia by invitation only.

The proceeds of the price of JD 1 per ticket will be donated to charity. Tickets are available at the Royal Cultural Centre which is hosting the European Film Festival.

PROGRAMME

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Petrina Chronia (Greece) | March 31, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Stone Years) | April 1, 5:00 p.m. |
| 2) Der Forsomente Forar (Denmark) | April 1, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Stolen Spring) | April 2, 5:00 p.m. |
| 3) Howard's End (U.K.) | April 2, 8:00 p.m. |
| 4) Above The Mountains | April 3, 5:00 p.m. |
| 5) Het Gezin Van Paemel (Belgium) | April 3, 8:00 p.m. |
| (The Van Paemel Family) | April 4, 5:00 p.m. |
| 6) Max et Jeremie (France) | April 4, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Max And Jeremy) | April 4, 5:00 p.m. |

NO SCREENING ON TUESDAY APRIL 5

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|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 7) Fratelli E Sorelle (Italy) | April 6, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Brothers And Sisters) | April 7, 5:00 p.m. |
| 8) Los Santos Inocentes | April 7, 8:00 p.m. |
| (The Holy Innocents) | April 8, 5:00 p.m. |
| 9) Abgeschminkt! (Germany) | April 8, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Making Up) | April 9, 5:00 p.m. |
| 10) Het Gezin Van Paemel (Belgium) | April 9, 8:00 p.m. |
| (Netherlands) | April 10, 8:00 p.m. |

All sadness is eaten up by the night

By Nawal Al Saadawi

Nawal Al Saadawi, 61, is a writer and campaigner for women's rights in her native Egypt. She moved to Seattle in the United States 18 months ago because she felt her life was in danger from Islamic fundamentalists. She lives with her husband, Sherif Hetata, also a writer.

I miss Egypt at night more than any other time. Night is the time of memories and Cairo comes back to me then. I think of my family and friends, my walks by the Nile in moonlight with the breeze dry and gentle. I still have my flat in Cairo. My bed and my books, my dreams and my nights are waiting for my return. The Egyptian government gave me 24-hour bodyguards, but I didn't feel protected and I left for the shallow nights of Seattle where I have no memories and do not belong.

I have already been imprisoned for my writings. In 1981 I spent three months in one cell with 11 other women. My bed was the floor or a plank of wood. When I couldn't sleep I would compose my memoirs in my mind, turning the pages in my imagination. I wrote almost half the book in that way.

Dreams were a marvellous escape then and made me feel so much better about the two barred doors behind which we were caged. I often dreamed I could fly like a bird through the sky and, dropping into the ocean, swim effortlessly towards the horizon. Sometimes I was a child again, running through open fields.

In the morning my husband and I discuss our dreams and

try to understand them. I don't follow Freud or Jung, I use my own way of thinking, and find the process instructive and enjoyable. Even nightmares present us with the opportunity to overcome our fears. Mine are always to do with real dangers in my life — for example that I'm in prison or being shot at.

I have always confronted my fears, all my life. When I was a child I was scared of the dark so I forced myself to go out and walk in the night. Then, when I was a teenager, my mother and I were attacked by a man on our way home. My mother was terrified, but I hit him — and he ran away! That incident really gave me confidence in myself and the option of fighting back.

I feel that my mental health is very strong because I can put all my negative experiences behind me and be cured. I was brutally circumcised when I was only six years old, but I have transcended that. Women all over the world are circumcised, either physically or psychologically.

Circumcision can be irrelevant if we realise that actually we have orgasms with the brain. The power of pleasure is related to our ability to undo inhibitions. I married three times to find my liberal husband and, together, we gradually worked this through.

We've been married 29 years. We work as a teaching team at the University of Washington and are good friends. But I wouldn't say that I can't live without him. I have trained myself to depend only on myself. I feel the same way about my son and daughter — you can lose anything any minute.



Nawal Saadawi

For the same reason I never keep photographs and rarely make notes. These things can be taken away from you. I try to store everything in my brain. Often I use dreaming to retrieve information. My children are in Cairo, but I can bring their images before me when I sleep. If I need to relive periods of my life for my auto-

biography, I can do so in my dreams.

I never fall asleep straight away. I lie for up to an hour in that lovely drifting between waking and sleeping. A lot of ideas come to me, which I also experience in the morning before I get up. I rise early and go for a walk. I like to breathe the air before anybody else has a

chance to breathe it first.

I always feel so optimistic when I wake. All my pains and sadness have been digested by the night and by my dreams. As I walk I dream of my return to Egypt. I don't think fundamentalism will last — it's part of the power system, not a truly popular movement — The Independent.

Politics, religion and the Gulf war top the list of popular reading material, say booksellers

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although leisure reading is lacking in Jordan and the demand for books has decreased, booksellers concur that the most popular publications are those on political, religious, Gulf War and business subjects and textbooks.

But the aggregate demand for books is decreasing.

Some booksellers owners told the Jordan Times that there was a drop in demand because of the rise in book prices as a result of the devaluation of the dinar and the high cost of publishing.

According to Jamal Jabir, owner of Dar Al Fikr in downtown Amman, the demand for books is seasonal. In summer, demand is high for political books; in winter and autumn, it shifts to university, college and school textbooks and during Ramadan, religious subjects are most popular.

Owner of Al Difatein Bookshop in Al Wihdat Mohammad Shawar agreed that there was a recession in the demand for books. The pre-Gulf war period, he said, witnessed a high demand for many subjects, but currently there is a perceptible decrease because of the economic crisis and the dinar —

U.S. dollar exchange rate. Still, he said, "books on religion, traditional medicine, and language are in high demand."

Al Talia Bookshop manager Sami Hassan said he mainly sells university and school textbooks at the Jabal Hussein shop.

He said books on religion come second in customer preference.

"Most of the books are imported and we pay for them in hard currency. The losers in this deal will be our readers and the cultural movement in Jordan as a whole," Mr. Hassan said.

In downtown Amman, Kiosk owner Mohammad Rashad said that from experience he has noticed that "young people's demand is highly concentrated on political subjects, while people over fifty-years-old ask for historical and religious books."

Director of the Jordan Book Centre on the University Road Gaby Sharbain told the Jordan Times that his clients are children, housewives, students, professors, doctors, engineers and others. "There is a high demand for scientific, medical, and computer science books," he said.

But Mr. Sharbain said Jordan

faces a severe shortage in the number of readers. "One out of one thousand (citizens) is seeking informative books. Most of our clients do not read books voluntarily," he said. Mr. Sharbain maintained that unless college and university students are obliged to buy books in order to succeed in an exam, "we scarcely see a person entering our bookshop asking about a publication for his/her own knowledge or leisure reading."

According to Idrees Azzam, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan, the demise of voluntary reading in Jordan can be attributed to individuals' educational environment.

Since the family and the school are children's sources of education, they shoulder the entire responsibility of encouraging children to read, which, if successful, becomes a lifetime habit, said Dr. Azzam. He points to what he calls "textbook readers" — those masses of Jordanian university students who read simply to obtain their degrees.

For Dr. Azzam, the solution is to consider reading as a means of enlightenment, rather than a means to a diploma.

Israel, PLO settle one hurdle

(Continued from page 1)

Middle East peace process, about the PLO's position after it received the Israeli government reply to PLO demands, the Palestinian news agency Wafa said.

It did not elaborate on the content, saying that Mr. Arafat had received separately the U.S. and Russian ambassadors to Tunis.

Mr. Arafat on Tuesday night chaired a meeting of the PLO's mainstream movement Fatah, which insisted on the implementation of the U.N. resolution adopted after the Hebron massacre.

"Our condemnation of the anti-peace forces (in Israel) demands we protect our Palestinian people by all means, including the implementation of Resolution 904 and international protection for our people," it said in a statement

issued on Wednesday.

In Bombay, Israel's deputy foreign minister Wednesday dismissed as nonsense PLO charges that Israeli army elements and Jewish settlers had formed a secret alliance to sabotage peace talks by killing Palestinians.

"I hope that these false accusations which were so typical in the past will disappear," Yossi Beilin told Reuters in an interview in Bombay.

Mr. Arafat has said Monday's killing of six PLO men in Gaza by Israeli undercover troops was aimed at wrecking the peace process.

It was the bloodiest incident since the Hebron massacre. Mr. Beilin said he hoped for a quick settlement of issues blocking agreement on resuming peace talks.

'People have to feel peace'

(Continued from page 1)

water and refugees," Dr. Majali said. "Israelis prefer to discuss tourism and trade."

Regional cooperation, Dr. Majali said, cannot be discussed before peace is achieved to avoid any future problems.

Dr. Majali said the refugee problem was the highest price Jordan has been paying since

1950 when the Palestinians decided to unite with Jordan to form one state, an issue which the Israelis had exploited for their own sake.

"Jordan's position concerning refugees is clear: Whoever lives here is Jordanian, without any prejudice to the provisions of the 1950 unity agreement concerning their political rights."

Rabbis rule troops can disobey orders

(Continued from page 1)

conference were affiliated with the settlement movement, but many have had leading positions in Israel's religious establishment. Rabbi Abraham Shapira, who drafted the ruling forbidding the obeying of orders to evacuate settlements, is the previous chief rabbi.

Meanwhile, the top defence ministry official for the occupied territories testified Wednesday that Palestinians never complained about Jewish settlers carrying guns into the holy site where the Hebron massacre occurred.

Major General Danny Rothchild also told a commission probing the Feb. 25 slayings that decisions on prayer arrangements at the Ibrahim

Mosque were subject to Mr. Rabin's approval, in his role as defence minister.

During his hour-long testimony about events surrounding the massacre, Gen. Rothchild, an adviser to Mr. Rabin, said there were persisting tensions at the site holy to Jews and Arabs as the burial place of Biblical patriarchs.

Gen. Rothchild accused Muslims of generating much of the tension, citing internal Palestinian power struggles and demand from fundamentalists to keep Jews from praying at the site.

He acknowledged, however, that there were also Jewish extremists who objected to the Muslim presence at the site.

Berlusconi seeks premiership

(Continued from page 1)

But he maintained his objections to Mr. Berlusconi becoming prime minister, saying the self-made millionaire would find it impossible to keep Italy's interests and his own apart.

He said the league's leader in the outgoing lower house, Roberto Maroni, should be the next prime minister.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose personal success and message that he could restore prosperity was a major factor in his triumph, suggested a way round the problem in a late night televi-

sion interview.

"I've heard that some people have said that if I want to be prime minister I'll have to sell my companies," Mr. Berlusconi said. "Let them come forward. If someone wants to buy them, I've got nothing against it."

Mr. Berlusconi made clear his offer also applied to his three national television networks, which he defeated rivals on the left accuse him of using shamelessly in the campaign that catapulted him to triumph in just two months.

Settler kills Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

Peres told Israel Radio the Israeli forces "acted innocently" to forestall what they believed was a planned ambush of Israeli forces. "There were no evil intentions, although it is a very sad event," Mr. Peres said on Israel Radio.

An army spokesman said there was no wrongdoing on the soldiers part since they had orders to open fire on any armed Palestinian men. But the spokesman said the killings were "a mistake" in that the army had not intended to kill Fatah Hawks.

However, the Israeli human rights group B'tselem said the soldiers did not fire in self-defence but ambushed the Fatah Hawks based on advance information about their whereabouts.

"Without warning, without shooting in the air, and without making any attempt to arrest these men, the undercover soldiers opened fire, killing these men," said Yuval Ginbar of B'tselem.

The human rights investigators also cited Palestinian witnesses as saying a soldier deliberately shot and killed a wounded Palestinian after he had been captured and fired repeatedly at the other five Palestinians to "ensure that they were dead."

By Geoffrey Varley
Agence France Presse

PARIS — French Prime Minister

Edouard Balladur celebrates his first year in power next Wednesday well-placed to take the supreme prize in presidential elections due in May, 1995.

In spite of mass protests by students against 64-year-old Balladur's plan to pay them cut-price wages, he is far and away the most popular French politician in opinion polls while his rival, Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, is trailing.

Mr. Balladur kept his presidential ambitions quiet for a year, but in an article in the right-wing weekly Figaro-magazine Saturday, he strongly hinted he would be in the running.

He said his policies over the past year were the precursor of "the great structural reforms" to be undertaken in 1995, indicating he personally wanted to undertake those reforms.

And in an interview with journalists, he refuted criticism from Chirac supporters, saying there was nothing wrong in a prime minister setting his sights on the presidential palace.

Mr. Balladur nurtured his ambition as opinion poll after opinion poll showed he was extraordinarily popular, while Mr. Chirac, leader of Mr. Balladur's own party, the Rally For the Republic (RPR), stagnated.

In December, two Balladur supporters, Health Minister Simone Weil and Defence Minister Francois Leotard, both members of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the centre-right component of the governing coalition, came out for a Balladur candidacy. He gave them an unconvincing ticking-off for speaking out of turn.

Serious social conflicts since last October began to take their toll, and the prime minister in February dropped 10 points to 46 per cent popularity in a month, while 60-year-old Chirac, suffering from an image problem, stayed at 37 per cent.

As Foreign Minister Alain Juppe put it, the "idolatri" of Mr. Balladur was over, but the opinion polls still make the prime minister the preferred candidate of the French for the presidency.

In his first months, he had the French swallow several bitter pills, without the hint of a protest, as if people were stunned by the right's sweeping victory in legislative elections last March.

Mr. Balladur increased taxes to cut the budget deficit, reduced pensions and cut health cover provided by the deficit-ridden social security system.

The first hiccup came in October when a spectacular strike forced the government to abandon a restructuring plan for the loss-making state Airline Air France.

In January, the government

had to backtrack over an educational reform that favoured private schools over state institutions, when 600,000 people marched through Paris in protest.

And in February, violent protests by fishermen against cheap imports forced the government into offering \$60 million in handouts to the ailing industry.

The prime minister came under increasing criticism from within the RPR for his perceived timidity and in private from Mr. Chirac himself, who had once described Mr. Balladur as his "friend of 30 years' standing."

This did not affect Mr. Balladur's support in the country. In the key first round of local elections on March 20, the right-wing coalition emerged as still the biggest political force in the country in an apparent endorsement of his rule, although the Socialists recovered somewhat.

But Mr. Chirac has not given up, and his stalking horse Jean-Louis Debré, RPR assistant secretary-general, said: "At the appropriate time, we shall need an alternative government, an alternative leadership for an alternative policy."

He accused Mr. Balladur of breaking a pact with Mr. Chirac where the former was to exercise the delicate balancing act of sharing power with Socialist President Francois Mitterrand while the latter reserved himself for the presidency.

APRIL 1994

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation THE FIRST QUARTET FESTIVAL IN JORDAN



Tuesday, 5
Under the Patronage
of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein
THE JAPANESE "KUBO" QUARTET
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
JD 7
In cooperation with The Japanese Embassy

Tickets are available from:
- The Royal Cultural Centre, 669026
- Babiche, 661322
- Freddy For Music, 692696
- The National Music Conservatory, 687620



Monday, 11
THE JON METZGER JAZZ QUARTET
Philadelphia Hotel - Philadelphia Ballroom
JD 7
In cooperation with The American Center

Tickets are available from:
- The American Center, 820101
- Philadelphia Hotel, 607100
- Freddy For Music, 672696
- The National Music Conservatory, 687620



Wednesday, 13
THE EDINBURGH QUARTET
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
JD 7
In cooperation with Shell and Turino

Tickets are available from:
- The Royal Cultural Centre, 669026
- Turino, 816690
- Babiche, 661322
- Freddy For Music, 692696
- The National Music Conservatory, 687620



Sunday, 17
Under the Patronage
of His Highness Prince Raad Bin Zeid
THE MODERN STRING QUARTET
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre
JD 7
In cooperation with Goethe Institut
and
Friendship Society for the Blind

Tickets are available from:
- The Royal Cultural Centre, 669026
- Goethe Institut, 641093
- Babiche, 661322
- Freddy For Music, 692696
- The Royal Cultural Centre, 669026
- The National Music Conservatory, 687620



Tuesday & Wednesday, 26 & 27
**THE MOZART QUARTET
OF SALZBURG**
HOTEL INTER. CONTINENTAL JORDAN
THE GRAND BALLROOM
JD 25 (with dinner)
In cooperation with
The Austrian Embassy

Tickets are available from:
- Hotel Inter. Continental Jordan, 641361



Goethe Institut



HOTEL
INTER-CONTINENTAL
JORDAN



U.S. rejects Japan economic plan

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration roundly rejected a new Japanese economic plan Tuesday, saying the package falls short of U.S. demands and does not merit a resumption of stalled trade talks.

The standoff — on the heels of a summit failure last month — rekindled fears of a possible trade war, although the White House stressed it was open to new offers.

"The package of measures is of limited substance and appears to be half-finished work," U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said. "This does not address our concerns."

Japan unveiled its plan earlier Tuesday in Tokyo, hoping to soothe the tensions with promises to boost its economy, open its markets to new imports and cut its \$131 billion trade surplus.

But the plan put off many key decisions until June, leading the White House to reject the olive branch and hold out for more concessions ahead of a July economic summit.

"We don't want cosmetic

agreements. We're not going to paper over our differences. We want to have agreements that are going to make a real difference," Mr. Kantor told reporters.

While his criticism had been expected, the dollar nonetheless dipped lower against the Japanese yen amid fears the world's biggest economies are back on collision course.

Indeed, even Japanese officials conceded their plan was longer on promises for the future than concrete action now, blaming the shaky political situation back home in Tokyo.

Such problems aside, Mr. Kantor said: "We have indicated that an enhanced package would be a necessary step to reopening discussions under the framework. This is not that package."

Talks broke down last month when President Clinton and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa failed to agree on how to cut Japan's trade surplus, raising fears of U.S. retaliation.

Both vow that trade war is not on the agenda, but there is

ample opportunity for the rhetoric to spin out of control. On Thursday, the U.S. government releases an annual list of what it considers the world's top trade barriers, giving the White House yet another chance to single out Japan for criticism.

Mr. Kantor listed a handful of conditions that Japan must meet before talks resume: A commitment to the goal of substantially opening its markets, acceptance of indicators to gauge progress toward that end, deregulation and economic stimulus.

While many of these are long-held U.S. demands, the wrangling over economics has taken on new urgency under the activist Democratic administration, which has elevated trade to the very centre of post-cold war foreign policy.

Under the reform package, Japan promised steps that are designed — albeit slowly — to cut its huge trade surplus, which is condemned around the globe as a drag on growth.

But the plan neglected to set specific indicators to measure

progress and thus failed to live up to the central, controversial tenet of the Clinton approach. That said, Mr. Kantor insisted: "We're not discouraged. Our door remains open."

Mr. Hosokawa decided to come up with the package after last month's summit standoff soured relations and sent the yen shooting up against the dollar at a cost to Japanese business.

"I hope this maximum effort by Japan will help smooth U.S.-Japan ties and reopen the economic framework talks," aides quoted Mr. Hosokawa as telling Mr. Clinton by telephone.

Yet, such hopes aside, Japanese officials knew full well the package was a hard sell, saying the fragile government coalition in Tokyo made bolder steps impossible for now.

"For a more dramatic package, you need strong political leadership," said one official here. "The ball was in our court and now we've hit it back onto the American side."

"Unofficially, at least, let's resume the talks," he said.

Arab states see oil growth in Asia

ABU DHABI (R) — Gulf Arab oil producers see the appetite for Gulf oil in Asian countries, especially China, as growing faster than demand in traditional markets, industry sources said Tuesday.

"China and India will become the main market for Middle East oil," one Gulf oil official said. "They will replace major market centres in the West and Japan, in terms of growth for GCC oil."

Marketing directors from state oil companies of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held their annual meeting in Abu Dhabi Tuesday on ways to coordinate marketing strategies.

Officials from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Oman and Qatar said they also discussed production and selling their petroleum products, the "levels of their commitments to buyers" and the oil and gas market.

They did not discuss the impact of a decision taken by their oil ministers at last week's OPEC meeting to maintain current oil output levels in the face of sagging prices.

"We expect China to grow in terms of consumption at a rate of up to 20 per cent," one official said, saying the estimate was based on population growth.

Oman's Deputy Oil Minister Salem Shaban said this month that Asia's rising oil appetite will be met from the Middle East.

"Oman is among GCC countries interested in examining joint ventures opportunities in the Chinese oil sector," he said.

China has not signed long term contracts with Kuwait and the UAE and both are keen to enter its market.

Berlusconi promises Italy an economic revolution



Silvio Berlusconi

MILAN (R) — The right-wing Freedom Alliance of media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, which won a stunning victory in Italy's elections, has pledged an economic revolution to overcome the worst recession in decades.

Mr. Berlusconi, one of Italy's richest men, wooed voters with promises to ease taxes, cut bureaucracy and reduce the economic role of the state.

Echoing the free market line of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher, the perennially-sundered Berlusconi says the way to tackle economic problems is to unfetter private enterprise in a country which has Europe's largest state sector outside the former Eastern Bloc.

With the optimism that is his trade mark, he says the very presence of his alliance in government will boost confidence and get businessmen investing again to create the one million new jobs he has promised.

"There are some four million businessmen in Italy and they will know how to react to a government that understands them," he said on the campaign trail.

The alliance triumphed in the law-making chamber of deputies (lower house) although it will need to negotiate with some small political groups to ensure a majority in the senate.

But to form a government, Mr. Berlusconi faces the difficult task of settling differences between his quarrelling allies — the federalist Northern League and the neo-Fascist National Alliance.

The industrialists' organisation Confindustria saluted the voters' verdict, saying it was a clear call for market orientated policies and a restricted role for the state.

"The vote is a clear call to free the economy from restraint," it said in a statement.

ment sticks to its predecessors' promises to bring the country into line with its partners.

The debt totals some 1,800 trillion lire (\$1.1 trillion), while the deficit is running at around 10 per cent of annual economic output, more than three times that of Germany or France.

Mr. Berlusconi has promised to ease the tax burden with a single flat rate of around 33 per cent in place of a sliding scale running from 10 to over 50 per cent. He plans to switch more tax gathering powers to the regions.

Although he says the measures will be introduced gradually, economists expect a Freedom Alliance government to make at least some symbolic changes quickly.

"They are going to want to create a bit of an effect early on," said one economist.

Privatisations and labour law reforms to make it easier to hire and fire are other main planks of his programme, but here again, Mr. Berlusconi could run into resistance.

The privatisations of state companies by the outgoing government of technocrat prime minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi have focused on the lucrative banking sector.

The future should see chunks of state industry, much of which would have to be restructured with a potential for high job losses, coming under the hammer.

"The unions may put up a strong fight," said the Milan bank economist.

Bundesbank trims key German interest rate

FRANKFURT (R) — Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, Wednesday sanctioned another marginal cut in a key money market interest rate, affirming its softly-softer approach to reducing the cost of credit in Germany.

But economists say markets may have another month to wait until it cuts the headline discount rate.

The "repo" rate, which sets the trend for money market interest rates, fell to a lowest 5.76 per cent in the weekly securities repurchase agreement (REPO) tender from 5.80 per cent last week.

In a repo tender, the Bundesbank supplies the banking system with liquidity by lending funds in return for securities which then have to be repurchased on a certain date.

Wednesday's move was seen in markets as confirmation that the Bundesbank was sticking to its guns, reducing the cost of credit in Germany at no more than a gradual pace.

Economists said the 0.04 percentage point cut in the repo rate proved the Bundesbank was not letting explosive money supply growth stand in the way of credit easing.

German M3 money supply for February released last Thursday grew an annualised 17.6 per cent — far above the Bundesbank's 1994 growth target of four to six per cent, but slower than January's shock figure of 21.2 per cent.

Markets worried after the January number that the Bundesbank would stop cutting interest rates for a while. The central bank sees M3 growth as an indicator of future inflationary pressures.

"I think the impact of M3 on interest rate policy will be quite limited in the months ahead. The monthly rate is slowing and there's absolutely no reason to panic," UBS economist Holger Fahrnkug said.

The repo rate has come down from six per cent in

February.

"Twenty-four basis points in the last month — it's quite aggressive, and it's a sign that the Bundesbank will continue to ease despite the sharp increase in M3," Takahide Kiuchi, economist at Nomura Research in Frankfurt, said.

However, the central bank was now likely to test the monetary waters, waiting for the next money supply or inflation data, before diving in with a discount rate cut, economists said.

Money supply figures for March should be released on about April 20, and west German consumer price inflation data for April will be published soon after this.

Mr. Fahrnkug forecast the Bundesbank would cut the 5.25 per cent discount rate by 50 basis points at its policy-setting central council meeting on April 28.

"The next (discount) rate cut will only come in April if there's a significant weakening in March M3," Dresdner Bank economist Harald Joerg said.

"It's all a question of credibility... there are prisoners of their own money supply target, because all other indicators speak in favour of lower interest rates," he said.

West German inflation was slowing steadily to stand at 3.2 per cent year-on-year this month, and was on track to fall below three per cent in May, June or July, he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 31, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make your important decisions at mid-day today to avoid the negative influence of the Moon square Saturn this morning and its square to Mercury in the early evening. Don't decide on a fixed course of action.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure you follow standardised practices today to gain the results you want. Be lest demanding of family members or there could be problems.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take the right steps to improve your financial position. Discuss with a successful person now to invest money more wisely.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Schedule your activities wisely so you get maximum use of your time. Be sure to use extreme caution in motion today or you could be in trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can now understand how to improve your financial position so don't waste valuable time and get as much done as you possibly can.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to make definite plans to gain your most important aims. Sidelstep a foe who could spoil your happiness with your family on this day.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to save as much money as you can now in case of

a possibly emergency in the days ahead. Show more affection for your mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go after important aims with more enthusiasm and effort and you can easily gain them. Be alert at all times today for problem situations.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't become irate at one who has power over your affairs or you could get into trouble. Be sure to keep promises you've made to other people.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can make a good impression on new comers by showing you are honest and decent in all things. Relax at home tonight with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be careful you don't take any chance where business matters are concerned or you could jeopardize security with the company.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make definite plans to gain your most important aims. Come to a better accord with associates. Think constructively about a new project.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Stop wasting time and attend to important duties now. Contact an influential person who can be helpful in planning the future for you.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 1, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: As Venus — moves into Taurus today you will be in a better position to improve relationships with others by extending additional courtesies and kindnesses. Show others that you know how to use your wisdom.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get busy attending to important duties, whether in business or at home. Take steps to improve your health so you will be physically fit.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You could be confused early in the day because of adverse conditions, but things improve later. Be careful of outsiders on this day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Attend to duties in the home that will bring more harmony and comfort there. Be more thoughtful of loved ones who are around you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Come to a far better understanding with the one you love. Your intuition is not accurate now. Rely on your judgement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make long-range plans to gain your most cherished aims. Study every angle of an important project before putting it in operation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get busy at that precise

work you enjoy which will improve your position in life. Take no risks in motion at this time or you could be harmed.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A good day to study new outlets that could be profitable in the future. Be alert at all times today. Think constructively on any project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have to apply yourself more if you are to gain a most cherished personal aim. Be sure to keep your promises which you have made to others.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Know what your true desires are before you expend your energies because you could go in the wrong direction and not get ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A good day to study new outlets that could be profitable in the future. Be alert at all times today. Think constructively on any project.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Study your business responsibilities and figure out a better way of handling them. Take no risks with money at this time.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have a long talk with an associate and come to a far better understanding. Avoid one who tries to take advantage of you in the long run.

French government scraps youth wage law

PARIS (R) — The French government scrapped a disputed youth wage law Wednesday and replaced it with a subsidy to companies which recruited young people. Prime Minister Edouard Balladur announced.

Street protests by hundreds of thousands of students in cities nationwide had greeted the law, which allowed employers to pay young people less than the minimum wage while they were on short-term training contracts.

A statement issued by Mr. Balladur's office said that, after consultations held by the

head of the National Employment Agency, the prime minister decided to withdraw the CIP (contract d'insertion professionnelle).

"It has been decided to give employers an incentive to anticipate the emerging economic recovery and give young people their first job," it said, adding that a subsidy of 1,000 francs (\$200) a month would be paid for the first nine months to any company which gave a young first-time worker a job for at least 18 months. The amount would be doubled for any young person employed before Oct. 1.

Indonesia sees tough times ahead on oil price fall

JAKARTA (R) — OPEC-member Indonesia has warned it will face tough challenges in the 1994-95 fiscal year starting on April 1 because of falling oil prices.

"Certainly the developments in oil prices do not make us happy. Therefore our policy is clear that we are going to reduce our dependency on oil receipts," Planning Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told reporters Wednesday.

"The development of oil prices has warned us that we must speed up non-oil exports, to increase efficiency and to sharpen priority of government projects," Mr. Ginanjar said.

An Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva last weekend decided to retain its 24.52 million barrel per day ceiling, causing a drop in prices.

Indonesian benchmark Minas Crude was quoted at \$13.30 a barrel Wednesday in the Asian market, unchanged from the previous day. Indonesia based its 1994-95 budget on \$16 a barrel against \$18 for the current fiscal year.

"If oil prices continue to fall then certainly receipts from oil will become less. I hope we can cover the receipts from taxes and non-oil exports," Mr. Ginanjar said.

Indonesia projected oil output in 1994-95 as basically unchanged at 1.5 million barrel per day. Oil and natural gas are its largest exports.

"The revenue from oil is less and less in our budget, though it still quite big terms of value. We will continue to reduce it, because it is no longer realistic to pin our hopes on oil receipts," Mr. Ginanjar said.

Indonesia has said that revenue from oil and gas would drop 15 per cent to 12.85 trillion rupiah (\$6.12 billion) in fiscal 1994/95, from an estimated 15.12 trillion rupiah (\$7.2 billion) in 1993/94.

The 1994/95 budget assumed oil and gas would account for 21.5 per cent of routine income, down from 28.7 per cent in the previous year.

The fall in oil prices has been blamed for a 1993/94 budget deficit of 1.8 trillion rupiah (\$857 million).

Indonesia urged oil firms Tuesday to cut production costs because of pressure on prices after the OPEC decision.

Gustaaf Nayoan, exploration director of the state oil company Pertamina, said production costs averaged \$6 a barrel onshore offshore.

Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TACHY

RUFOR

METIKS

LESFAT

Answer here: ON

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS EXILE FLURRY PAYING

Answer: What autumn leaves might be called — "FALL-AGE"

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berberich

ACROSS

1 Large tub

4 Antidote

8 Great party

13 Scads

15 Computer instruction

18 Burden

17 Start of Irvin S. Cobb quote

20 Organic compound

21 Carabin hook

22 Slating tool

23 Helper

25 Carrot

26 Star part

28 Contrite quote

33 Translate

34 Hand or curtain

35 Chou En

36 Image

37 Blood provider

38 Good cause

40 Half of small store

41 Goodness!

42 Homes

44 Contemporary ones

46 "And so..."

47 Small amount

48 Jacob's wife

49 Swagger

52 Poet's monogram

54 Find an answer

58 End of quote

61 Proverbs

62 Mountain nymph

63 Gaelic

64 — out (makes)

65 Earth

66 Lion's residence

DOWN

1 Plover holder

2 Heidi's home

3 Bash

4 "What a good boy"

5 Result of haste

6 Hurt

7 In a neighbor

8 Craggy hill

Minim—just right

HOW THE GEOLOGIST LIKED HIS DRINKS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ON

Yesterday's Jumbles: BASIS EXILE FLURRY PAYING

Answer: What autumn leaves might be called — "FALL-AGE"

(Answers tomorrow)

THE Daily Crossword by Joan D. Berberich

ACROSS

1 Large tub

4 Antidote

8 Great party

13 Scads

Arab Gulf economists urge less from government

MANAMA (R) — Arab Gulf governments are spending too much and should leave more to the private sector, leading economists said at a regional conference Wednesday.

Budget deficit are too high and governments are involved in too many companies that are not strategically important, essentially being employers of first resort rather than last resort, they said.

Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, Kuwaiti central bank governor, lamented the fact that the private sector accounts for only 26 per cent of the Kuwait economic measured by gross domestic product (GDP), with the public sector at 74 per cent.

"This is a complete structural imbalance. It should be the reverse, at least," he told the economic forum.

He noted that the collective budget deficits in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a grouping of six oil-rich states, was \$32 billion in 1992, 16 per cent of GDP, compared with a 1975 surplus of \$14 billion, 21 per cent of GDP.

Sheikh Salem noted that under the welfare state, people have come to expect free education, free health care and highly subsidised housing.

"The GCC countries have to adopt new approaches now to meet the changes facing them," he said. "The public sector expansion and state intervention of past years are no longer seen appropriate to governments."

A Saudi-based economist, Henry Azzam of the National Commercial Bank, praised the Saudi government for

announcing a balance budget for 1994 through a planned 19 per cent spending cut, even though this has hit the economy and stock market.

"It reversed this spontaneous, automatic increase in expenditure," he said.

Mr. Azzam noted that strength in the private sector can overcome declines in the oil or government sectors. He advocated a combination of fiscal measures to further reduce deficits and steps to encourage private enterprise.

He advocated that Gulf

countries consider taxation, a new concept in the region. He noted that Oman is introducing a corporate tax and said negative effects on foreign investment can be minimised through tax treaties.

"Cutting expenditure will not be sufficient," Mr. Azzam said.

Mr. Azzam said the people in the Gulf have to start thinking about paying for the services they used to get free.

He also encouraged more privatisation. In Saudi Arabia, for example, it made little

sense for 40 per cent of all shares on the stock market to be held by the government.

Mr. Azzam also recommended opening up the capital markets to investors outside the country, as Bahrain has started doing.

He advocated starting first with investors in the region, but said that as the markets deepened and matured they would be increasingly able to handle the massive inflows and outflows of capital that has characterised other emerging markets.

Poor states see menace in U.S. trade-labour link

GENEVA (R) — Developing countries Wednesday fiercely rejected a controversial United States bid to put labour conditions firmly on the agenda for a new World Trade Organisation (WTO) to be set up next year.

Indian envoy Balkrishnan Zutshi told ambassadors at the GATT the row over workers' rights could wreck the achievements of seven years of talks in the trade watchdog's Uruguay Round.

GATT chief Peter Sutherland said there was no question of the U.S. not joining the other 120 countries in the round in signing its final act — which sets up the WTO — in Marrakesh, Morocco next month.

But at a news conference he accepted it was possible the "labour clause" dispute could abort a joint declaration by foreign and trade ministers

which had been intended to give a harmonious launch to the new body.

"It would be most unfortunate if the ministerial declaration was not adopted by all parties," Mr. Sutherland said. He might call GATT envoys together again next week if there was any chance of a solution before Marrakesh, he added.

The round was completed last December with wide-ranging accords on slashing tariffs and opening a major boost to the economies of both developed and most developing countries.

The Marrakesh gathering from April 12-15 had been intended to celebrate the achievement and launch a new committee to prepare for the advent of the WTO — hopefully on Jan. 1, 1995 — as a

powerful body to guide world trade along the free market path into the 21st century.

But trade diplomats said there seemed little doubt now the meeting would see confrontation over the labour issue.

"I fear it could be an arena for North-South confrontation, which we have sought to avoid in GATT," said one senior envoy.

GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which now links 119 countries, is to be absorbed by the WTO.

Mr. Zutshi, whose country is an increasingly powerful player on the world trade scene, told the ambassador's meeting the quarrel had "menace and destructive potential for undoing what we have built so assiduously so far in these seven years."

"Indeed, this cloud has the

potential to threaten the very foundations of the multilateral system on which we are committed to build the edifice of a future World Trade Organisation," he declared.

Speaking for all developing countries, Brazil's Luiz Lampra told the GATT session they could not accept the U.S. demand that a link between trade and labour standards be included in the declaration, to outline the WTO agenda.

Mr. Lampra made clear that poorer states suspected that behind the labour issue lay a U.S. desire to protect its markets from cheaper goods.

But speaking to reporters, chief U.S. negotiator John Schmidt left no doubt that Washington would not modify its stance, despite lack of overt support from other rich countries.

Housing Bank hikes net profit by 37%

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's Housing Bank said Wednesday net profits rose 37 per cent to 6.64 million dinars (\$9.47 million) in 1993 from 4.84 million dinars (\$6.90 million) in 1992.

The board of directors proposed distributing 1.82 million dinars (\$2.59 million) of dividends in 1993, an increase from last year's 1.70 million dinars (\$2.42 million).

"The bank achieved its highest net profit since its founding and highest credit and loans granted in one year as a result of the continued demand in 1993 in financing housing and residence," Zuhair Al Khouri, chairman of the board, said.

The bank, the main private real estate credit institution, will hold its annual general meeting on April 28. It has a

paid up capital of 12 million dinars (\$17.1 million), with over 55 per cent held by Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Iran.

Outstanding loans, excluding provisions for doubtful loans and suspended interest, rose 16 per cent to 443 million dinars (\$631.9 million) from 383 million dinars (\$546.36 million) in 1992.

Loans granted in 1993 rose 11 per cent to 189 million dinars (\$269 million) from 170 million dinars (\$242 million) in 1992.

Deposits fell to 745.5 million dinars (\$10.6 billion) at end of 1993 from 841 million dinars (\$11.9 billion) in 1992 with "clients looking for higher yield opportunities in a better investment climate in Jordan."

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | New York Close 29/3/94 | Tokyo Close 30/3/94 |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.4850 | 1.4819 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.6727 | 1.6750 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.4225 | 1.4225 |
| French Franc | 5.7230 | 5.7351** |
| Japanese Yen | 103.13 | 103.30 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.1518 | 1.1479** |

USD Per STG
* European Opening in 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit Rates 30/3/1994

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 3.3750 | 3.6250 | 4.0000 | 4.5000 |
| Sterling Pound | 5.0000 | 5.0625 | 5.0625 | 5.0625 |
| Deutsche Mark | 5.5625 | 5.5000 | 5.3125 | 5.2500 |
| Swiss Franc | 3.9375 | 3.8750 | 3.8125 | 3.7500 |
| French Franc | 6.0625 | 6.0000 | 5.8750 | 5.8125 |
| Japanese Yen | 2.0000 | 2.0000 | 2.0625 | 2.1250 |
| European Currency Unit | 6.2500 | 6.2500 | 6.1800 | 6.0000 |

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals 30/3/1994

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 386.65 | 7.60 | Silver | 5.60 | 0.130 |

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin 30/3/1994

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6990 | 0.7010 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0355 | 1.0407 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4169 | 0.4198 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4909 | 0.4934 |
| French Franc | 0.1219 | 0.1225 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.6763 | 0.6797 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.3707 | 0.3726 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.0426 | 0.0428 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0426 | 0.0428 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.0426 | 0.0428 |

* Per 100

Other Currencies 30/3/1994

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8350 | 1.8500 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.040400 | 0.042080 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1861 | 0.1872 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 2.3270 | 2.3600 |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1898 | 0.1910 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2150 |
| Omani Riyal | 1.7830 | 1.8100 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1898 | 0.1910 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.2635 | 0.3325 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.3325 | 1.4050 |

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| U.S. \$1.00 costs | 1.3776/86 | Canadian dollar |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | 1.6766/76 | Deutschemarks |
| | 1.8854/64 | Dutch guilders |
| | 1.4232/42 | Swiss francs |
| | 34.54/58 | Belgian francs |
| | 5.7305/55 | French francs |
| | 1631.3/2.8 | Italian lire |
| | 103.06/16 | Japanese yen |
| | 7.8900/00 | Swedish crowns |
| | 7.3010/60 | Norwegian crowns |
| | 6.5960/10 | Danish crowns |
| One sterling | \$1.4778/88 | |
| One ounce of gold | \$387.30/387.80 | |

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Major faces new leadership crisis

LONDON (R) — Problems over Europe threatened to topple another British prime minister Thursday as a withering attack on John Major's leadership undermined his already weak position.

The latest crisis was sparked by a row with the European Union (EU) over voting rights. Mr. Major's handling of the dispute led to a call for his resignation by a maverick parliamentary colleague Tuesday. Other critics quickly joined a chorus of demands for the premier's head.

Only a week ago Mr. Major was talking tough, insisting he would not back down on raising the EU blocking minority to 27 votes from 23 — diluting Britain's ability to stand in the way of legislation it opposes. On Tuesday he agreed to the change.

Critics argue he not only gave in on an issue of sovereignty but handled it ineptly, using anti-European rhetoric one moment and trying to conciliate the next, making it impossible to say where he really stood.

Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine, who helped topple former Premier Margaret Thatcher in 1990, was at pains to praise Mr. Major for defending British interests in Europe — over which Mr. Major was forced into an embarrassing climbdown Tuesday.

"I don't think there is any question of a leadership vacancy," Mr. Heseltine said in a series of day-after interviews by senior Conservative Party figures trying to shore up Mr. Major.

But once loyal newspapers that have steadily turned against Mr. Major saw it differently. "Major facing leadership crisis," screamed the Daily Express, the last mainstream newspaper to back Mr. Major.

Itters over the political uncertainty ran through financial markets. Sterling fell a penny to a five-month low at 2.48 German marks, depressed by the crisis, dealers said.

Mr. Heseltine, who despite a heart attack last year is still seen as prime ministerial material by those seeking a more impressive figure, went out of his way to praise Mr. Major. "I think he will lead the Conservatives to the next election and I think he will win an enhanced majority," he said.

Tony Marlow, a Conservative anti-European MP who is little known outside parliament, plunged a verbal knife deep into Mr. Major Tuesday, saying his retreat over EU voting rights left him discredited.

"Why doesn't he stand aside and make way for somebody else who can provide the party and country with direction and leadership?" asked Mr. Marlow, who predicted the coup that overthrew Mrs. Thatcher.

Mr. Marlow may be a relative nobody but his outspoken attack in parliament — the first on a sitting premier for at least 30 years — summed up a deep-seated concern about Mr. Major on the backbenches of the Conservative Party.

Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the influential 1922 faction of Conservative Party lawmakers, joined Mr. Heseltine in trying to praise Mr. Major rather than bury him.

He denied Mr. Major was in jeopardy. "It is not the case at all — everything is recoverable."

Three and a half years after replacing Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. Major has failed to put his mark on the premiership in a way that can unite a party bitterly divided over closer ties with Europe and over the way Mrs. Thatcher was unceremoniously dumped.

His handling of the row with Europe over voting rights in an enlarged union summed up his weakness and questionable tactics.

A week ago he branded opposition Labour leader John Smith the "poodle of Brussels" and pledged to "fight Britain's corner hard." That tough talk gave him little room to move and made it hard to see his retreat as anything other than a capitulation.

Even allies admit he handled it badly, leaving himself no room to present a climbdown as a skillful compromise.

Four members of his cabinet, however, under which Britain grudgingly accepted that the blocking minority for EU decisions will rise to 27 votes from 23 when Norway, Finland, Austria and Sweden join next year.

5 ANC peace envoys killed in Zulu revenge

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — Hostel-dwellers shot dead five ANC supporters near the South African port of Durban Tuesday night in apparent retaliation for the killings of Zulu marchers in Johannesburg, the ANC said Wednesday.

It said three other people were killed Wednesday in another Durban settlement, two in an attack carried out by supporters of its main black political rival, Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

The Transitional Executive Council (TEC), overseeing the run-up to the country's first all-race elections on April 26-28, gave the go-ahead Tuesday for the government to declare a state of emergency in Natal.

At least 274 people have died in political violence in the Zulu heartland of Natal and adjoining KwaZulu homeland since the beginning of March, the highest toll there in four years.

The TEC announced its decision on emergency measures shortly after the government said an on-off summit between the country's top four leaders had been agreed for next week.

It said President F.W. de Klerk, Mr. Buthelezi, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini had agreed on a venue but not an exact date.

Ben Ngubane, a senior member of Inkatha which is boycotting the April elections,

reacted angrily to the TEC move, describing it as "a hell of a serious matter."

Roy Ainslie, regional spokesman for the African National Congress, said nine youths were attacked after they were invited to a hostel in Kwa-Mashu township, an Inkatha stronghold, to discuss peace in the violence-hit area.

"The boys were asked: 'do you remember what Mandela did to us in Johannesburg?'" said Mr. Ainslie. "The hostel-dwellers opened fire and five of the nine boys were killed."

At least 53 people were killed in Johannesburg and its townships during incidents linked to Monday's march through the South African commercial capital by Zulu royalists backing their king's demands for a sovereign Zulu kingdom.

Mr. Ainslie said Wednesday's killings took place at Bhambayi squatter camp outside Durban. Two of the three victims died when Inkatha supporters raided an ANC section of the settlement, Mr. Ainslie said.

There was no immediate Inkatha response to the ANC accusations.

Kwa-Mashu is one of the main flashpoints in intensified political violence between the ANC and Inkatha ahead of the elections.

Police spokeswoman Shereen Govender confirmed five people were killed in Kwa-Mashu Tuesday night but had

no further details.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in a decade long turf war between the ANC and Inkatha in the Natal-KwaZulu region, heartland of the country's nine million Zulus.

Mr. Buthelezi issued an angry statement Tuesday in which he accused the ANC of planning the deaths of some of the Zulu marchers during Monday's carnage in Johannesburg.

"We have now entered a final struggle to the finish between the ANC and the Zulu nation, unless there is extension of the voting date to enable a negotiated settlement," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi and King Goodwill Zwelithini are demanding that Natal-KwaZulu become an autonomous state in post-apartheid South Africa.

The U.N. Security Council Tuesday deplored "in the strongest possible terms" Monday's violence in Johannesburg which killed more than 50 people, and said it was clearly aimed at derailing South Africa's transition to a democratic society.

"Intimidation, violence and provocation cannot be permitted to deny the South African people their opportunity to join the community to democratic states," the Council said in a statement read to reporters by its president, Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee of France.

U.S. mediator shuttles between Greece, Macedonia

ATHENS (R) — A U.S. special envoy began a round of shuttle diplomacy Tuesday to try to mediate in a dispute between Greece and the ex-Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that threatens to further destabilise the turbulent Balkans.

Matthew Nimetz, assigned by President Bill Clinton to help end the two-year dispute over the use of the name Macedonia, flew in from Skopje for talks with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu and Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

"This is a dispute that affects the peace and security of the region and that alone is a concern to the United States. We had discussions in Skopje and will have continuous discussions," Mr. Nimetz told reporters after meeting Mr. Papoulias.

"Our goal is to assist in achieving a (United Nations sponsored) solution. We will persevere this effort and I am very hopeful for positive results," he added.

Mr. Papoulias said Greece welcomed the U.S. mediation adding that Mr. Nimetz would fly back and forth to Athens and Skopje in the next few days.

"I hope in the next weeks that we will have some positive results," he said.

Greece imposed a trade embargo on the republic in February barring it from using Greece's northern port of Salonika, through which some 80 per cent of its trade usually passes.

Athens wants to press the republic to change its name to prove it has no territorial ambi-

tions on Greece's province of Macedonia, home of 2.5 million Greek Macedonians. It also wants the republic to change its flag and rewrite its constitution.

Greece was told bluntly to lift the embargo or risk being dragged before the European court in Luxembourg during a weekend meeting of European Union foreign ministers in the northern Greek town of Ioannina.

Earlier Tuesday Mr. Nimetz met in Skopje with Macedonia's President Kiro Gligorov and Foreign Minister Stevo Cervenkovski.

Mr. Nimetz told reporters he had "a very cordial and extensive discussion" about his mission.

"We consider that we have very friendly relations with both parties and that this is a matter of real concern for the region and the entire world," he said, adding that President Bill Clinton was particularly interested in the case.

Mr. Cervenkovski said after the meeting that Macedonia was happy the U.S. had its own mediator in the dispute, and reaffirmed that "the best place for resumption of the talks is under the auspices of the U.N."

He underlined however that his country could do little while under the pressure of the trade embargo.

Mr. Papandreu is due to visit Washington for talks with Mr. Clinton on April 22. Mr. Papoulias said that Mr. Nimetz viewed the prime minister's visit to the United States as "a time framework during which some progress can be achieved."

Mexico ruling party names Zedillo for presidency

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico's ruling party Tuesday named Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, who was campaign manager for slain presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, as its new candidate for elections in August.

Mexican authorities meanwhile charged a second man as an accomplice in the Colosio murder, moving further away from their original contention that he was killed by a lone gunman.

Mr. Zedillo, a 42-year-old Yale-educated economist known more for his competence than his charisma, told supporters who massed at the ruling party headquarters he would continue Mr. Colosio's fight for greater democracy and a stronger economy.

"Luis Donaldo Colosio was the best man for Mexico," Mr. Zedillo, a former education minister and Mr. Colosio's campaign manager, said in tribute to the slain candidate.

Heavy security was in place at the headquarters of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) as supporters massed under huge Colosio ban-

ners. Zedillo banners were put up just before his arrival from his Mexico City home, but those of Mr. Colosio remained in place in a gesture of homage.

Mr. Colosio died after he was shot in the head and abdomen last Wednesday following a campaign rally in the northern city of Tijuana, on the Mexico-U.S. border. Authorities have charged a 23-year-old mechanic, Mario Aburto Martinez.

Mr. Zedillo, seen as a courteous speaker and politician and a moderate within the PRI, is a strong supporter of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's free-market economic policies.

"We will reach the end of the century with a strengthened economy in which stability and growth are sustained in sound finances, competitiveness and modernisation," Mr. Zedillo said in a speech accepting the nomination, drawing lukewarm applause.

His candidacy made him the automatic favourite in the Aug. 21 election. The PRI has claimed victory in every presidential election since 1929.

Heavy clashes reported in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Rebel Serbs signed a ceasefire with Croatia Wednesday, but U.N. peacekeepers said fighting raged in neighbouring Bosnia where Serb forces launched artillery and infantry attacks on Muslim enclaves.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said two people died and 12 were seriously wounded when Serb guns pelted the Muslim pocket of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia. There was no independent confirmation of the toll.

A civilian was killed and four were wounded when 500 shells hit Gorazde, a U.N. safe haven, Tuesday, according to aid workers in the town. The assaults forced the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to suspend aid convoys to Gorazde, which has a population of around 60,000 including refugees from Serb advances in the region.

Spokesman Rob Annink of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) told reporters in Sarajevo that clashes were intense around the Muslim-held Bihac pocket of northwest Bosnia Tuesday.

"Fierce infantry fighting along with artillery and mortar shelling was reported between Bihac town and the Grabez Plateau," he added.

Aid workers in Bihac reported seven tank rounds hit the bakery in Bihac and two others struck the telecommunications centre.

There were more clashes in the Muslim Maglaj salient in central Bosnia and mortar bomb impacts around Srebrenica, another U.N. "safe haven" for Muslims in eastern Bosnia.

Increased Serb attacks on Muslim targets follow accusations by the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) that Muslim forces have launched a spring offensive against Serb territories.

A BSA spokesman said Serbs "have no reason to shell Gorazde" but claimed Muslim troops were attacking Cajnica and Visegrad in eastern Bosnia.

Muslims were also reported attacking Serb-held Tesanj in northern Bosnia and Donji Vakuf in central Bosnia.

The BSA said four Serb soldiers were killed and five wounded in the previous 24 hours in fighting around the country including Bihac.

The ceasefire signed by the Croatian government and envoys of the rebel Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK), which occupies a third of Croatian territory, was a new breakthrough towards peace after three years of conflict in former Yugoslavia.

RSK Foreign Minister Slobodan Jarevcic told reporters after the deal was signed at the Russian embassy in Zagreb: "Our goal is fulfilled. Our armies will not fight anymore."



African National Congress (ANC) supporters, to an ANC meeting in Kwa Mashu township in Durban, made their way to an ANC meeting in Kwa Mashu township in Durban (AFP photo)

Seoul confident war can be thwarted

SEOUL (R) — President Kim Young-Sam returned home Wednesday from a week-long visit to Japan and China, saying he was confident North Korea's nuclear ambitions can be thwarted without war.

"I have a firm belief we can defeat North Korea without any fighting and we can maintain peace and stability on the Korean peninsula," Mr. Kim said before leaving Beijing.

"I confirmed to Chinese leaders that South Korea has never had any intention to absorb the North or isolate it. Rather, I told them we were ready to help the North," Mr. Kim told South Korean reporters based in Beijing.

Mr. Kim said the South would cooperate with the United States, Japan, China and Russia to find a peaceful solution to the impasse over inspection of Pyongyang's nuclear facilities.

Seoul, Washington and Tokyo fear Pyongyang is building a nuclear bomb. The North denies it.

Mr. Kim said Chinese President Jiang Zemin had supported the idea of holding talks between top leaders of North and South Korea to resolve the nuclear and other problems.

The South Korean President last month said he was willing to hold talks with North Korea's Stalinist leader Kim Il-Song to discuss unification of the peninsula, a divided since the end of World War II.

On his arrival in Seoul, the

South Korean leader said he and Mr. Jiang had agreed on the need for peace and stability on the peninsula.

Mr. Kim has taken a conciliatory line on the North since he held talks with Mr. Jiang and other Chinese leaders, who have repeatedly stressed that consultation is the only way to solve the crisis.

In contrast to his warnings only days ago that South Korea's patience might be running out, Mr. Kim told a news conference in China Tuesday he would persist in efforts "to resolve this issue through dialogue and persuasion."

China, one of Pyongyang's few remaining allies and a permanent, veto-wielding member of the U.N. Security Council, says putting pressure on Pyongyang to force it to open nuclear sites to inspection would be counterproductive.

Tensions grew rapidly last week as the increasingly defiant North repeatedly warned that international efforts to force U.N. inspection of its nuclear sites, could lead to war.

Officials in Seoul said Mr. Kim was expected to decide soon whether to hold this year's "Team Spirit" military exercises with Washington, which had been suspended to tempt Pyongyang to talk.

Washington has already said it is sending Patriot missiles to boost South Korean defenses.

The North says it will quit the nuclear non-proliferation

treaty aimed at curbing the spread of atomic bombs if Team Spirit is staged, but preparations for the exercises have been resumed since the collapse of talks between the two Koreas.

South Korea's Vice Unification Minister Song Young-Dae said Wednesday "multiple efforts for dialogue" were likely to be made once the United Nations acted on the North's standoff with the West.

The United Nations has been discussing a U.S.-advocated resolution warning the North to fulfil its commitments to let International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts complete inspection of seven declared nuclear sites.

But envoys at the U.N. said Washington was also negotiating with Beijing about a statement which would carry less weight than a resolution, urging Pyongyang to permit international inspections.

"There is a possibility unofficial contacts between the United States and North Korea will be activated," Mr. Song told a meeting of members of an advisory group on unification.

Mr. Song said the North might reveal its position on the row and inter-Korean ties on April 6 during a session of its Supreme People's Assembly.

North Korea said Wednesday that South Korea had a new U.S.-drafted plan to invade the North.

Christopher: China makes progress on rights

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher, reflecting a growing U.S. tendency to describe China's movement on human rights in favourable terms, Tuesday said progress on two key conditions have been "substantially met."

The two mandatory areas have already been substantially met," he told radio reporters in an interview, referring to liberal emigration policies and an end to using prison labour for producing exports.

Progress has also been requested in five other areas — including release of political prisoners and a willingness to talk with the Dalai Lama about Tibet — and "we'll be watching over the next two months to see what progress is made," he said, according to a State Department transcript.

President Bill Clinton last

year demanded overall significant progress in China's human rights policies as a condition of renewing favourable trade benefits called most favoured nation (MFN) trade status — after June 3, 1994.

Increasingly the administration U.S. businessmen and members of Congress have grown fearful China might not meet the criteria, forcing revocation of MFN, a move seen as potentially disastrous for American business and U.S. relations with Beijing and the rest of Asia.

Mr. Christopher, after a difficult trip to Beijing earlier this month, said China has not yet made enough human rights progress to merit MFN renewal. He acknowledged Tuesday "there's not been any specific progress since the trip."

Earlier the United States said it may consider selectively withdrawing trade benefits from China's state-owned enterprises instead of a broader sanction if Beijing fails to show progress on human rights.

But officials stressed they are still pressing China for full compliance with Mr. Clinton's rights conditions, and would prefer to be able to renew MFN across the board.

U.S. officials, businessmen and lawmakers are weighing how to mitigate the effects if Beijing does not meet U.S. conditions and Mr. Clinton is forced to withdraw or modify MFN.

Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord, addressing the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said selective withdrawal of MFN would be aimed at lessening the impact on U.S. business and other "innocent bystanders" like Hong Kong and Taiwan.

White House releases documents on first lady's cattle venture

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House released documents detailing how first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton turned an initial 1,000 commodities market investment into nearly 100,000 over two years in 1978-79.

Officials denied that Mrs. Clinton had any knowledge of any action by her broker to assign her winning trades while dumping losers on others. The broker, Robert Bone, was disciplined by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in 1979 for record-keeping violations.

"Mrs. Clinton put up her own money, invested it in her own accounts, and assumed the full risk of loss," White House Staff Secretary John Podesta said, reading a statement approved by Mrs. Clinton to reporters.

Asked to explain Mrs. Clinton's good fortune, which was dramatic even by the standards of the volatile commodities market, a senior official said: "It was a good market. It was a bull market, and a lot of people made a lot of money."

The New York Times first reported Mrs. Clinton's profits two weeks ago, and they also

appeared in tax returns released by the White House last week. But the White House had refused until Tuesday to say how much she had put at risk.

Mrs. Clinton's commodities trades appear to have had no connection with the Whitewater land deal the Clintons also launched in 1978, the year he was elected Arkansas governor. That deal has come under scrutiny as part of a federal probe into a failed savings and loan institution.

But the commodities and Whitewater stories have fostered a new image of the Clintons as high-flying investors during an era that they have criticised for its politics of greed.

White House officials said they decided to release the data Tuesday after widespread media speculation about how Mrs. Clinton, a lawyer, made so much money in the ultra-risky commodities market.

They denied that she engaged in any "sweetheart" deals, as Newsweek magazine put it in a story the magazine said it was rechecking.

The officials said Mrs. Clinton got advice from James Blair, an Arkansas lawyer who was representing Tyson's Foods, the nation's biggest poultry company, at the same time he was advising Mrs. Clinton on her trades.

Arkansas is a rural state. There was just a lot of people around that she knew. She read the Wall Street Journal," said one official.

The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday that Mrs. Clinton's broker, Mr. Bone, was accused of allocating trades to investors in his branch office in Springfield, Arkansas, after he had determined whether the trades were winners or losers.

In December 1979, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange disciplined Mr. Bone for "serious and repeated violations of record-keeping functions, order-entry procedures, margin requirements and hedge procedures."

A senior White House official said Mrs. Clinton "had no knowledge of any allocation of trades." He pointed out that she lost money on several trades. "Beyond that, we really have no comment and refer you to the Chicago Merc." he said.

Marilyn's clothing lost in burglary is recovered

NEW YORK (R) — Clothing and other items belonging to Marilyn Monroe, missing since a burglary at a Manhattan warehouse last September, have been recovered and a suspect has been arrested, police said. The items included the famous white halter-top dress that billowed up as Ms. Monroe stood over a subway grate during a scene from the 1955 film *The Seven Year Itch*. Also taken were matching shoes, and letters between Ms. Monroe and acting mentor Lee Strasberg. Ms. Monroe had bequeathed the items to Strasberg. They were kept at a warehouse in Manhattan housing items from his estate. The loss was noticed when an employee for Strasberg's widow, Anna, went to check on the items. A suspect was arrested and charged with burglary and possession of stolen property and burglar's tools.

Police baffled by denture theft con game

ALPHEN AAN DE RIJN, Netherlands (AP) — Residents of this western Dutch town are bracing themselves against a denture thief. Police have since November received two reports of stolen false teeth and seven complaints of attempted denture theft, spokesman Hans Schimmel said Tuesday. And the Leidsch Dagblad newspaper estimates 10 such thefts nationwide. The fate of the toothy loot is not known. However, the thief appears to be following a pattern. A denture wearer gets a telephone call asking about denture discomfort, and suggesting the dentures be returned for examination. "The denture owner doesn't want to be without teeth for long, so an arrangement is made whereby the false teeth are put in a plastic bag, hung on an outside door and supposedly collected by a courier in the night and returned the following day," Mr. Schimmel said. "But the dentures don't appear again." One victim said a man claimed to need her dentures for research at the nearby University of Delft. She never saw them again. Pieter Bouwer, a former president of the Dutch Denture Makers Association, said some of the dentures may end up at flea markets. "But it's ridiculous," he said. "Dentures have to fit exactly."

Loch Ness has a sub for tourists, scientists, lovers

DRUMNADROCHT, Scotland (AP) — The Loch Ness Monster Centre launched a submarine today for tourists who want to explore Scotland's most famous body of water. For £68 (\$102) each, five tourists and a pilot can descend 230 metres (760 feet) into the loch's deepest depths. Amateur marine-biologists or thrill-seeking monster-watchers will not be too cramped in the white Canadian-made sub. About the size of a small bus, it measures more than 10 metres (33 feet) and weighs 24 tonnes. Tourists will not be certain of actually seeing Nessie, especially since the most famous photograph of the "monster" was recently revealed to have been a hoax. Profits from tourist excursions in the sub will be used for the vessel's scientific mission. The sub will drill for core samples at the bottom of the loch in an effort to go back in time through 12,000 years of its geological history. Adrian Shine, the man in charge of the sub's scientific programme, says that it will not spend time peering into the water in search of the legendary monster. He has his own monster theory, saying Nessie could in fact be a Baltic sturgeon, a fish that sometimes grows over three metres (10 feet) long, and can weigh up to 200 kilograms (440 pounds). The sub's owners are practically assured of the programme's success despite its high price. Each year, about 500,000 and 600,000 tourists visit Loch Ness, and half of them go to the Monster Centre's museum. The centre says that 500 people from around the world have already reserved their places on the craft, and several couples have already asked if they can be married while submerged in Nessie's lair. No marriages have actually been planned for lack of willing clergymen. One Scottish couple actually wanted to know if they could rent the sub for an underwater love-making session. David Cotton, one of the centre's managers, explained that the crew would have to remain on the sub, and privacy would therefore be difficult to arrange.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boxing bribery trial goes to jury

NEW YORK (AFP) — A New York jury began deciding Tuesday whether a former Olympic heavyweight champion who offered his opponent a \$100,000 bribe during a bout was serious or merely taunting his rival. Roslynn Mauskopf, an assistant district attorney, said the remarks heard on videotape constituted a serious offer to Jesse Ferguson so that out-of-shape Ray Mercer could advance to a \$1.5 million payday against then-champion Riddick Bowe. Mercer, the gold winner at Seoul in 1989, could be sentenced to a maximum of seven years in prison if convicted by the New York state supreme court. Ferguson testified that he considered taking the deal because he thought it genuine. He said that while "trash talk," — taunting to distract an opponent — does not happen it did not seem to be the case with Mercer. Mercer's attorney, Dominic Amoroso, claimed Mercer's comments were meant to distract Ferguson.

Make weightlifters grow breasts

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Several weightlifters in former East Germany developed large breasts after taking drugs and had to have them removed surgically, a magazine reported Tuesday. Some female athletes grew breasts and left athletics after having to shave. Stern magazine said in a report based on files collected by the former secret police (Stasi). All were taking hormone-based performance-enhancing drugs administered by the state sports system, which made East Germany a sports powerhouse. When women's rowing team refused to take drugs after seeing women from other Eastern European teams develop manly "features," sports officials considered giving them steroids concealed in vitamin drinks. Stern said. Some track and field athletes developed liver problems after extended use of drugs, Stern said. While the cases mentioned by Stern were revealed in January when Stasi files were made public, the magazine for the first time disclosed the names of athletes involved. None were widely known, but they included Peter Wenzel, a weightlifting bronze medalist at the 1976 Montreal Olympics who the magazine said needed surgery to remove female-size breasts in the 1980s.

Saudi Arabia, Chile draw 2-2

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia, under new Argentine coach Jorge Solari, had a heartening 2-2 draw with Chile in Riyadh Tuesday in the latest of a series of preparation games for their debut in the World Cup finals. Saudi Arabia "played a big game against Chile and this match stresses the success of the national team at this stage of preparations for the World Cup," said the deputy chief of the Saudi Soccer Federation Prince Sultan, a son of King Fahd. "Results in the preparation stages are not as important to us as the national side reaching a level to give an honourable portrayal of Saudi soccer at the World Cup," he said.

Gonzalez retains his crown

PARIS (R) — Mexican Miguel Angel Gonzalez easily retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight title by stopping Frenchman Jean-Baptiste Mendy in the fifth round of a one-sided fight Tuesday. Gonzalez floored the Frenchman for the first time with some powerful body punching late in the second round and only the bell saved Mendy from an almost-certain knockout. Mendy, who had made seven successful defences of the European crown he took two years ago before earning a shot at a world title, resisted bravely in the third round and even managed to hurt the holder with clever combinations in the fourth round. But the Mexican was back on top in the fifth round and sent Mendy to the canvas with a vicious left hook. The Frenchman managed to stand up, only to fall again to Gonzalez's next combination and American referee Anshur Mercante saved him from further punishment by stopping the fight. It was the 31st win for Gonzalez in as many bouts and his 26th inside the distance.

Ma to train soccer team

BEIJING (AP) — China's most famous track coach, Ma Junren, has been drafted to whip a provincial soccer team into shape, sports officials announced Wednesday. Ma coaches the Liaoning provincial women's track team, whose members set world records last year at 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres. Liaoning sports officials recalled Ma from his runners' training camp in western China's highlands with an emergency assignment to train the provincial soccer team, the reigning national champion, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Although the team is technically strong, half its members failed a required fitness test for inclusion in a new nationwide soccer league. They have two weeks to train before taking a make-up test.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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THAT EXTRA CHANCE

East-West vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 5
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A 10 4
♣ J 7 6 5

WEST
♠ Void
♥ A J 10 5 2
♦ 5 2
♣ A Q 10 8 5 4 2

EAST
♠ 10 9 8 4 2
♥ K Q 7
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ A Q 10 8 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ 9 8
♦ K J 9 6
♣ K 9

The bidding:
West North East South
1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass Pass 2♠ Pass Pass 3♠ Pass Pass 3♥ Pass Pass 3♦ Pass Pass 3♣ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Whether to balance when the auction dies at a low level requires fine judgment. South got away with an ill-advised bid on this hand, then failed to cash in on more blessings by Dame Fortune.

If West does not intend to bid hearts on the second round of the auction, there is much to be said for opening the hand one heart rather than one club. When the bidding

died at two clubs, marking North with "air hand," South should have asked why partner had not acted over one club. The obvious conclusion was that North-South were missing the heart suit. As the cards lie, four hearts by East-West cannot be defeated.

An opening lead of a heart or a club would have inevitably led to the contract's defeat. However, West did not want to lead away from a tenace and, instead, attacked with a trump. Dummy's ten won, the ace was cashed and the remaining trumps were drawn with the help of a finesse. Declarer then started on spades, but when East turned up with five spades declarer could make no more than four tricks in the suit—down one.

Since East would have raised to three hearts with four cards in the suit, West was virtually marked with 0-5-2-6 distribution. After drawing a second round of trumps with the ace, declarer should have abandoned trumps in favor of cashing a high spade. When West shows out, but does not ruff, declarer runs all the spade winners and then ruffs the fifth spade with dummy's last trump. Declarer can then sit back and wait to score two more trump tricks with the king-jack for the contract.

Chang beats Rusedski; Carlsen upsets McEnroe in Osaka Open

OSAKA, Japan (Agencies) — American Michael Chang beat Canadian Greg Rusedski 6-3, 7-5 Wednesday in the second round of the \$650,000 Salem Open tennis championships.

Chang, the defending champion and no. 2 seed, broke Rusedski's serve in the fourth game of the first set and 11th game of the second in a 90-minute match on the hard courts of the Osaka Tennis Centre in western Japan.

Henrik Holm of Sweden, serving 12 service aces, ousted no. 7 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) in another second round match. Holm broke twice and Gilbert once in the first set and each broke twice in the second. In tie-break, Holm jumped to a 5-0 lead and allowed Gilbert only one point.

In first-round matches, Kenneth Carlsen Denmark needed just 70 minutes to beat eighth-seeded American Patrick McEnroe 6-3, 6-2.

Carlsen broke in the third and ninth games and ham-

pered in two consecutive service aces to keep the eighth game in the first set.

In the second set, Carlsen broke in the fourth and eighth games as McEnroe bowed out with his third double fault of the day.

American David Wheaton also had 12 service aces but needed three sets to down Andrei Olhovskiy of Russia 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Wheaton double faulted three times as Olhovskiy broke in the ninth game at love and took the first set.

Wheaton rallied in the second set, breaking in the first and third games. He scored the deciding break in the third game of the final set.

Alex Antonitsch of Austria put in only 51 per cent of his first serves but edged Martin Damm of the Czech republic 7-6 (9-7), 6-4. Damm put in 67 per cent on his first serves.

Chang will meet Holm in the quarter-finals Friday. Holm upset seventh seed Brad Gilbert of the United States 6-4

7-6 (7-1).

Rusedski, world number 54, beat Chang in the Tokyo indoor tennis tournament last year and stretched him into a tiebreaker in the quarter-finals of last year's Salem Open.

"I think today was a very close match ... The thing is when he (Rusedski) holds serve he's a very dangerous player," Chang said afterwards.

The slight American broke the powerful serves of the towering Rusedski twice, first in the fourth game of the first set and then in the decisive 11th game of the second set.

"I was able to win a lot of points on my return ... We got to a point where on occasion Greg was staying back on his second serve, which he is not comfortable doing. That was a major difference for me today," Chang said.

Asked about his size compared with Rusedski, he replied: "Bigger and stronger, doesn't necessarily mean better."

Accusations against Tapie reversed

VALENCIENNES, France (R) — Two of the main witnesses in France's soccer bribery scandal withdrew testimony against Marseille soccer boss Bernard Tapie in a confrontation before magistrates Tuesday, justice sources said.

Former Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie, who has admitted handing over a 250,000 franc (\$44,000) bribe to a Valenciennes player, withdrew earlier statements in which he said Tapie put pressure on him to change his testimony about the case.

"My client said today that Bernard Tapie was never involved in this affair," Eydelie's lawyer told reporters. Magistrate Bernard Befy confirmed "there has indeed been a change in his statements by the player and I don't know why."

Valenciennes Club Chairman Michel Coencas, who earlier also implicated Tapie in the alleged plot to bribe Valenciennes to stage an important match to Marseille last May, said Tuesday he had only let Tapie know that a bribery attempt was under way.

Marseille, the 1993 European champions, were banned from European soccer this season over the bribery scandal. "I was thinking whether I

Navratilova loses to little-known Argentine

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Martina Navratilova lost her opening match to a little-known Argentine for the second week in a row when she fell to Ines Gorrochategui 4-6, 7-5, 7-5 at the \$750,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament Tuesday.

The fourth-ranked Navratilova, seeded third here, lost last week to then 231st-ranked Betina Fulco-Vilella 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 in Houston, also at a clay court tournament.

"I was excited to be here," Navratilova said after the two-hour, 48 minute second-round match. "I hit the ball well in practice, it's a nice day and I was excited to be out there, win or lose."

"I enjoyed the match more than the one at Houston. I have nothing to hang my head about. I did as well as I could."

Top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain won her second-round match easily, defeating Dutchwoman Kristie Boogert 6-1, 6-1 in 61 minutes.

The top eight seeds received a bye in the first round. The 52nd-ranked Gorrochategui was a pale imitation of the dominating star she once was. She double faulted five times and lunged at volleys awkwardly in an effort to survive.

"I was thinking whether I

should come in or stay back," said Navratilova, who was disappointed that the crowd was not more supportive of her. "My shot selection was pretty good, but my execution not so good."

A nervous Gorrochategui lost her opening two serves to give Navratilova a 3-0 lead in the first set. But then she settled into the match, which was bad news for Navratilova.

"I was unbelievable," Gorrochategui, 20, said of playing the 37-year-old Navratilova.

"It's the first time I've beaten a top player. Navratilova was my idol when I was young. If she retired before I had a chance to play her, my tennis career would have been missing something."

In total, there were 40 break point opportunities in the match. Gorrochategui broke serve nine times and Navratilova broke serve eight times.

Navratilova surrendered the second set by losing the final two games.

In the deciding set, there were four service breaks in the first six games. Once again, Gorrochategui was stronger towards the end, taking the final two games to the match.

The second-ranked Sanchez completely outclassed the 61st-ranked Boogert in their first career meeting.

Faisali need 2 points to secure Jordan Soccer League trophy

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Only 24 matches remain in the first division soccer championship before titleholders Al Faisali again take the much coveted trophy back to their club for the eighth time in 13 years.

In order to achieve this they merely have to draw with Al Baqaa Friday in the 19th week of action.

Al Faisali now lead the standings with 45 points. Therefore, a draw would raise their tally to 47, something even second-placed Al Wihdat or the other top teams would not achieve even if they win all their remaining matches.

The titleholders will play Al Yarmouk and Sahab before they face former champions Al Wihdat in the final match of the season on April 22.

While Al Faisali have now almost secured their number one position, the same cannot be said of the four teams who are now competing for second place which according to Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) rules would get the club JD 1500 reward. The Kingdom's champions will receive JD 5000.

Al Wihdat, Al Ahli, Al Hussein and Al Qadissieh will all be aiming to score wins in their upcoming matches as they all have a legitimate chance to be crowned runners-up.

Meanwhile, another heated struggle is also going on in the first division. At least five teams are giving it all they have to avoid the prospect of relegation affecting the last four teams.

Sahab and Yarmouk are in an unenviable position in 11th and 12th places with a mere 17 points each. Al Yarmouk's last win was in the 16th week when they stunned Al Ramtha 3-1.

The surprise of the tournament so far has been Al Baqaa. They earned 7th place for now after a remarkable comeback in the second leg during which they drew with Al Wihdat 1-1, beat Al Yarmouk, Al Ramtha

and Al Fuheis 2-1, 4-2 and 2-0, then drew with Al Ahli 0-0, before upsetting Al Hussein 2-0 last week.

Al Jazireh, Al Arabi and Al Fuheis in 8th, 9th and 10th places are in a difficult position as every point in their upcoming matches might well determine their fate.

Al Fuheis face Al Wihdat Thursday hoping to score a third successive win after defeating Sahab 2-1 and Yarmouk 4-2 last week. A win would well advance Fuheis' chance of enjoying another season among the country's top teams.

Also Thursday, Sahab play Al Ahli in an important match for both teams. Sahab cannot afford to lose at this stage, especially after losing two consecutive matches against Fuheis and Al Ramtha in the past week.

Meanwhile, Al Ahli will be aiming for a definite win after the return of suspended striker Amer Wali, Hussam Hamash and Amer Munib.

In another match, Al Qadissieh face Al Jazireh who are now in 8th place after drawing 1-1 with Al Faisali and Al Hussein.

Al Qadissieh, led by the league's top striker Mustafa Adam are the only unbeaten team in the second leg of the competition during which they won four matches and drew in three. A victory would undoubtedly enable them to strongly challenge the runner-up spot.

In one of Friday's matches, Al Ramtha, playing one of their worst seasons after most top players deserted the team following rows with the club's management, will face Al Arabi, as both teams seek a half-way position in the league.

In the last match of the week, Al Yarmouk take on Al Hussein at Salt Stadium, where Al Hussein will be seeking to advance their standing as they face a lowly team which has almost lost hope after their recent 5-0 and 4-2 losses to Al

Ahli and Fuheis.

As fans anxiously await the results of their favourite teams' competition organisers, the JSF, must also be eagerly awaiting for the 1993 competition season to end so they can commence the 1994 schedule.

The past season has caused officials lots of headaches in continuous postponements because of weather conditions and unsuitable playing conditions at the newly-renovated Amman International Stadium.

The JSF must also be having its worst financial season, as low attendance has generated very little for all who share the income from ticket sales which are divided as follows: 6 per cent for ticket marketing, 2 per cent for stadium maintenance, 2 per cent for the Jordan Olympic Committee, 8 per cent for regional soccer committees, 18 per cent for the JSF and national teams, 10 per cent for competing teams. This is also distributed as follows: The competing teams in every match get 50 per cent, the rest of the teams get 40 per cent while teams in other divisions get 10 per cent.

The match with the lowest attendance must surely be that of Yarmouk and Ahli at Salt Stadium which only earned JD 6. Therefore, after the stipulated deductions, each team will receive a little more than JD 11.

At Salt Stadium, most matches generated only JD 30-35.

Even in Amman, where there was more competitive action, Al Wihdat-Al Ramtha match earned JD 2120, Al Faisali-Al Jazireh JD 1020 and Al Faisali-Al Hussein JD 843.

Standings before 19th week

| Team | P | W | D | GD | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-----------|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Faisali | 18 | 13 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 39 | 10 | 45 |
| Wihdat | 18 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 34 |
| Ahli | 18 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 28 | 17 | 33 |
| Hussein | 18 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 24 | 16 | 23 |
| Qadissieh | 18 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 27 | 20 | 31 |
| Ramtha | 18 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 29 | 24 | 29 |
| Baqaa | 18 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 18 | 25 | 27 |
| Jazireh | 18 | 3 | 8 | — | 7 | 21 | 24 | 25 |
| Arabi | 18 | 4 | 6 | — | 8 | 23 | 35 | 24 |
| Fuheis | 18 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 16 | 30 | 21 |
| Sahab | 18 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 17 |
| Yarmouk | 18 | 5 | — | 2 | 11 | 18 | 36 | 17 |

Knicks beat Hornets for 14th straight and perfect March

NEW YORK (R) — Charles Oakley scored a season-high 22 points and grabbed 17 rebounds as the New York Knicks beat the Charlotte Hornets 106-95 Thursday for their 14th straight win and a perfect month of March.

The streak is the second longest in franchise history, surpassed only by an 18-game streak in the 1969-70 season when the Knicks won their first NBA championship.

The streak is also second longest in the NBA this season. The Houston Rockets opened their season winning 15 straight.

The Knicks had never before had a perfect month.

Patrick Ewing, plagued by foul trouble, had 17 points for New York (50-19), which got its third straight 50-win season and staged a game ahead of Atlanta for best record in the Eastern Conference.

Alonzo Mourning scored 28 for Charlotte, which dropped five games behind Indiana for the final playoff spot in the east.

In Atlanta, Kevin Willis scores six of his 24 points during a decisive 9-0 fourth-quarter run to lead the Hawks past the New Jersey Nets 101-

98.

In Chicago, Scottie Pippen scored 27 points as the three-time champion Bulls clinched their 10th straight playoff appearance with a 106-103 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Horace Grant added 15 points and 15 rebounds for Chicago, which has not missed the postseason since 1984-85, Michael Jordan's first season.

In Dallas, David Robinson scored 37 points as the San Antonio Spurs dealt Dallas its

16th straight loss, 117-92, thus winning its fourth straight game and reaching the 50-win plateau (50-20) for the eighth time.

In Sacramento, Otis Thorpe scored 21 points and grabbed 18 rebounds and seven Houston Rockets scored in double figures en route to a 122-101 trouncing of the Sacramento Kings.

In Portland, Shawn Kemp scored 28 points and the Seattle SuperSonics rallied in the fourth quarter for a 114-100

victory over the Trail Blazers for their sixth straight win.

Seattle outscored Portland 28-13 to end the game and raise its record to 52-17.

At Los Angeles, Nick Van Exel's driving layup with 1.7 seconds left lifted the Lakers to a 91-89 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

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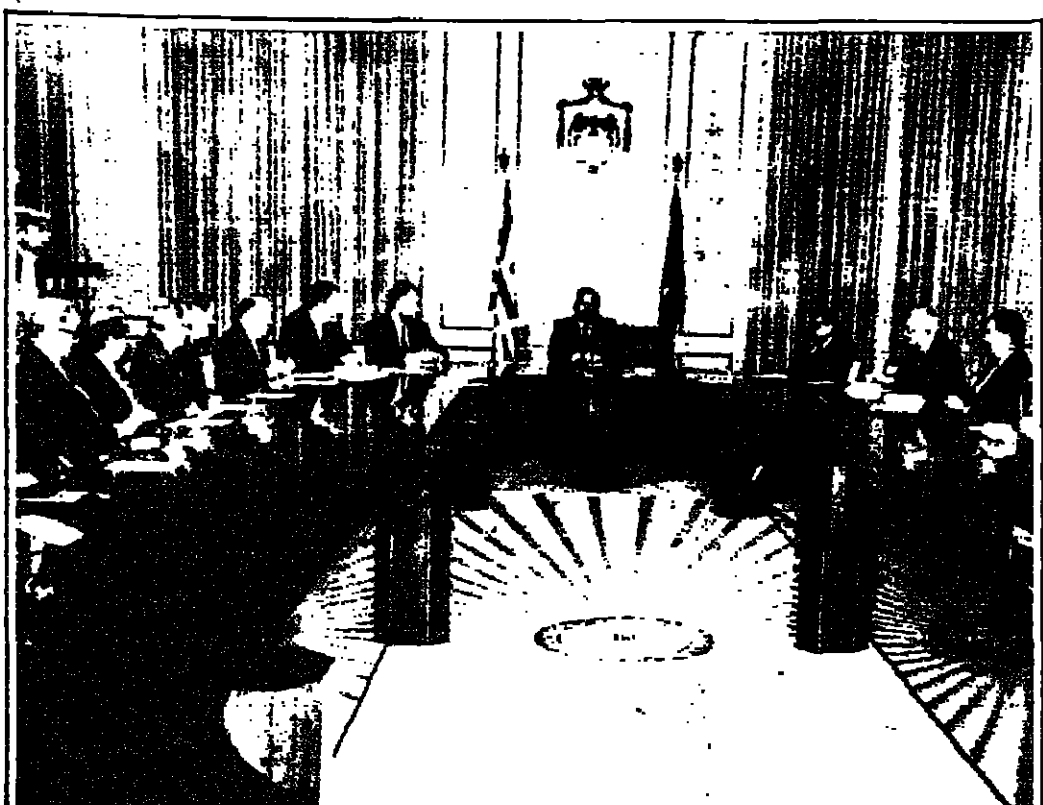
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PRINCE MEETS DANISH TEAM: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday meets with a delegation representing the Copenhagen-based Danish Foreign Policy Society (Petra photo)

Schoolgirls killed in Algeria

PARIS (Agencies) — Gunmen killed two high school girls at a bus stop in Boudouaou near Algiers, the official news agency APS said on Wednesday.

The agency monitored in Paris said Razika Meloudjemi, 18, was killed instantly. Naïma Kar Ali, 19, died of her wounds in hospital after being attacked by two gunmen on Tuesday afternoon.

Quoting security sources, the agency added that the killers escaped on a motorbike. The head of the Algerian Red Crescent was gunned down outside his home in one of two attacks on civilians in the Algerian capital in recent days, security forces said.

During the same period 20 armed Islamic activists were also killed by security forces in different operations across the country, a security force source added.

Thirteen died Monday in three separate operations. Six others were killed in the city of Oran Sunday and one more died on Saturday at Tamedra. Sadek Sedouki, the 53-year-old Red Crescent director, died Monday morning near Tipaza to the west of Algiers after two armed men opened fire with pistols.

And on Saturday animal dealer Amar Boudjelida, 55, was also killed in an attack at a

livestock market in Sougueur, near Tiarret to the south-west. Both groups of armed men escaped.

A total of 357 militants are believed to have been killed by security forces since the beginning of March, while 57 civilians and 14 members of the security forces have also died.

Islamic fundamentalists have been waging war since the army cancelled January 1992 elections that a Muslim military party was poised to win.

In Moscow, the foreign ministry urged Algerian authorities to protect Russian citizens in the country, following the killing of a Russian embassy employee Monday, the fourth Russian slain in six months.

Algeria's French-language daily newspaper La Nation said Tuesday it was suspending publication in protest against the killing of journalists and curbs on freedom of expression.

"Conditions are such today that it is not possible to maintain a journal which believes in democracy, pluralism and respect of human rights in the broad sense," the editors wrote in an editorial.

At least 12 journalists have been killed since last May and several newspapers, including La Nation, have been sus-

pending for "undermining the superior interests of the country" or "threatening public order."

Last Saturday and Sunday, no newspapers were published in protest at an attack by armed radicals on the offices of the weekly Hebdo-Libere.

Three people were killed, including the brother of the paper's director, Abdul Rahman Mahmoudi.

President Liamine Zeroul has said the government has made "contacts" with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), in an effort to form a transitional forum among the country's political parties.

According to a statement sent to AFP by the opposition leftist Ettahaddi Party, the president stressed that the "government is now waiting for the FIS to keep its promise to stop terrorism."

The statement did not say what the government may have promised the FIS.

Government dialogue with the banned party has been a point of controversy in recent days, since the Islamic Society Movement (MSI) released a statement, which the government contested, implying that FIS leaders were talking with the government. The MSI is a moderate Islamist rival of the FIS.

Afghan warriors agree on ceasefire

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Warring factions in Afghanistan have agreed on a ceasefire in the capital Kabul and surrounding areas from Friday during a visit by a U.N. peace mission, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

The office of the U.N. secretary general in Afghanistan and Pakistan said in a statement it had received word of support for the mission from both President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his arch-foe Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"In order to facilitate the visit, both sides are declaring a ceasefire in Kabul and the surrounding areas which will start at 6 a.m. local time on Friday," the statement said.

It did not specify the duration of the ceasefire. But U.N. officials said the five-member peace mission, headed by former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, planned to stay in Afghanistan for a week.

Mr. Mestiri, who arrived in Islamabad on Saturday, flew to the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad on Wednesday for a day's visit.

He was due to meet the local governing council, which has remained neutral in the current fighting, and see the plight of an estimated 110,000 refugees who have fled there from Kabul since the latest fighting erupted on New Year's Day.

In Kabul, Mr. Mestiri's delegation would hold meetings with Mr. Rabbani, Mr. Hekmatyar and other Afghan leaders, the statement said.

Both sides have also guaranteed the security of the U.N. mission, which aims to find out the United Nations might best help with national reconciliation.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in power struggles in Kabul since the rebels took power from the former Soviet-backed communist government in April 1992.

The statement, issued in Islamabad, Pakistan, did not say how long the truce would last.

Mr. Mestiri's mission has little hope of success. He said he only plans to stay in Kabul one or two days and has no new peace proposals to offer.

Jordan not party to Israeli desalination plan — Haddadin

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's senior delegate to negotiations with Israel on water said on Wednesday the Kingdom was not party to an Israeli proposal to desalinate water from the Mediterranean Sea to meet the water needs of both countries in the 21st century.

Munther Haddadin, head of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral working group on water, said the Kingdom had its own concept of integrated solutions to water shortages and had repeatedly turned down Israeli overtures to include it in the so-called "new Jordan river" project and other proposals.

Dr. Haddadin also said he was not aware of any involvement by any Jordanian company in the project, which was reported in the Israeli press on Monday.

"It is purely a unilateral project proposed by a group of academics financed by a German company," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times. "Jordan has nothing to do with it. We have repeatedly rejected Israeli proposals that we take part in it."

The purported plan was among four proposals submitted to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week in light of the 28-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks, according to a report by the Associated Press.

The agency quoted Israeli sources and the Yediot Aharanot as saying that the proposal was made by the Israeli Military Industries and includes the construction of a "new, artificial Jordan river."

It would involve laying a 120-kilometre pipeline from the Mediterranean to a desalination plant in the Beit



Munther Haddadin

Shean area in northern Israel. The water would flow down a 320-metre decline and provide hydroelectric power for desalination. The clean water would then be piped to a long narrow dam straddling the Jordanian-Israeli border and the new "Jordan river," offering water to both sides.

According to the report, the plan envisages that about a billion cubic metres of water would flow through the dam annually. The cost of the project was estimated at \$3 billion, to be mostly financed by German partners, the report said.

Israeli experts have also cast doubts on the feasibility of the project, which was reported as "brand new."

"It is not a new idea, it was first floated in 1870," said Dr. Haddadin, adding that he himself had presented the Jordanian viewpoint on the project when it was dusted off and presented again during recent water negotiations with Israel.

"There is no Jordanian involvement in the project and I am not aware of any Jordanian companies getting involved in it either," Dr. Haddadin said.

Dr. Haddadin, a former head of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and one of Jordan's top experts on water resources in the Middle East region, said Jordan's concept of solution to the water shortages in the region involved the construction of a pipeline/canal from the Red Sea from Aqaba to the Dead Sea. This project, estimated to cost around \$1.5 billion, will raise the Dead Sea to its historic level and protect the ecological features of the area, he said.

Dr. Haddadin has said that protecting the ecological features of the Dead Sea was of benefit to all parties around it, including the Palestinians and Israelis as well as Jordan, and that the project could not go ahead without approval by all of the parties concerned.

The project could bring in an annual average of 1,300 million metres of Red Sea water to the Dead Sea, will be a source of supply to desalination plants, can develop agriculture in the mostly arid southern regions of Jordan and also generate power, Dr. Haddadin said.

Israel informed a recent Peking meeting of the multilateral working group on water that it was abandoning a similar project to bring Mediterranean water to the Dead Sea, Dr. Haddadin said.

According to reports from Israel, the government now considered the Med-Dead canal project as prohibitive in terms of cost. When the project was first proposed in the early 80s, it was estimated to cost \$3 billion.

The working group, chaired by Austria, has asked the World Bank to assess the pros and cons of the Jordanian Red-Sea project, Dr. Haddadin said.

COLUMN

Malaysia lifts ban on film

KUALA LUMPUR (Agencies) — Malaysia Wednesday lifted its widely-criticised ban on the Oscar-winning Holocaust film Schindler's List. Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the weekly cabinet meeting Wednesday agreed to allow the film's screening in accordance with normal guidelines. "The cabinet noted that the film deals with the atrocities of the Nazis against the Jews in Krakow, Poland, during the World War II," he said in a statement. Malaysia's censorship board banned the film directed by Steven Spielberg because of what it saw as Jewish propaganda. "The decision is in keeping with the government's consistent opposition to all forms of suppression, oppression and atrocities, past and present. 'Common humanity demands our sympathy toward victims of atrocities irrespective of race, nationality or religion,'" Mr. Anwar added. Islam is Malaysia's official religion, and about half its 18.8 million people are Muslims.

Hitler exhibition cancelled after complaint

BERLIN (AFP) — A planned exhibition of Hitler photographs at Berlin's German Museum of History was cancelled after Jewish leaders complained it could hurt Jewish feelings, museum Director Christoph Stoelzl said Tuesday. The head of Berlin's Jewish community Jerzy Kanak said he had no doubts about the serious intentions behind the exhibition, but felt showing photographs of the fuhrer was not appropriate. The exhibition is currently on display in Munich and shows shots taken by Hitler's personal photographer Heinrich Hoffmann. It was due to open at Berlin in April and is meant to show the role of photography in Nazi propaganda and the Hitler personality cult. "It is a personal and spontaneous response to a personal request," Stoelzl said.

Shocked women to sue over HIV health worker

LONDON (AFP) — More than 120 women who said they suffered shock learning they had been treated by an HIV-positive health worker were given the go-ahead to sue two hospitals in northern England for negligence. A High Court judge gave permission to 123 of the women to launch a joint claim — expected to be heard in January — against Tameside and Trafford General Hospitals in Greater Manchester, northern England. The gynaecology patients said they suffered shock because they were given inadequate counselling after being sent letters three years ago telling them what had happened. One patient is reportedly claiming that she lost her unborn baby, while another claims her marriage was ruined. The women say the letters were not marked private or confidential, and that some were opened by other members of their families, which added to their distress. The health worker's role in the women's treatment has not been disclosed and health authorities have refused to comment on reports that he was a consultant gynaecologist. He was also involved in the treatment of women at West Suffolk Hospital in Bury St Edmunds, southern England. Of 875 patients contacted, 307 were tested for HIV. All the tests proved negative.

Twin takes place of jailbird brother who escapes

LONDON (AFP) — A man who escaped his Liverpool prison after his twin brother took his place behind bars was still on the run, British police said Tuesday. Brother Jeffrey Brown, 24, was charged with assisting an escape after helping his brother Paul bolted from Walton Prison in northern England. Jeffrey said that during a prison visit, Paul said he was close to killing himself if he didn't help him get away. Jeffrey agreed and took his place after swapping clothes, so the guards were not alerted. But he lost his nerve when he returned to the cell, shared with other prisoners, and confessed to the guards. He was released on remand, and his brother, who was serving a sentence for attempted robbery, is still on the loose.

Sanctions Committee official to take Jordan case to panel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary of the U.N. Security Council Sanctions Committee Jhing Zhang Wahn Wednesday said Jordan had played a key role in the effective implementation of the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait. He said the committee would study the complaints raised by the Kingdom of the negative impact of the sanctions and the enforcement of the sanctions on Jordan's economy.

Mr. Wahn, speaking at a debate here, explained the technicalities involved in approving requests for approval for exports to Iraq, saying approving any request required the approval of all of the 15 Sanctions Committee members.

In reply to comments made by Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jamal that only 718 Jordanian export requests out of 4,454 were approved by the committee members, Mr. Wahn said that not all of the applications were refused by the committee.

He said some committee members keep these requests pending because they need further information on them. He denied charges by Mr. Jamal that Jordan was facing discrimination by the committee saying the main problem with Jordanian requests were that many of them lacked essential information needed by the committee members.

Most of Jordan's requests were put on hold, not denied, he said. Another participant in the debate, Chairman of Jordanian Shipping Agents Association Amin Kassar, outlined losses incurred by Jordan as a result of conditions set by the committee.

He said many companies were closing down or reducing staff because of the losses and that Jordanian industries were losing their competitiveness.

Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour said that Jordan cannot import its needs at the same prices available for other countries in the region because of the rise in shipping costs. He said the Jordanian people feel they are targeted by the sanctions.

Mr. Wahn said the points raised during the debate were well taken and he would take them to the Security Council for consideration.

"Hopefully something will be made in that area," he said. "But a final decision rests with the 15 members of the committee, not with the secretary."

He said: "Personally I am aware that the situation faced by Jordan because of the sanctions. The 15 members know that Jordan has been significantly affected by the sanctions."

"The committee members are also concerned with finding a way to address the issue although no consensus have been reached. I think Mr. Jamal is right. We have received thousands of applications from Jordanian businesses for exports of various commodities to Iraq and I think I would be right to say that Jordan is one of our chief clients or the main client because half of the applications are from Jordan."

However, with regard of some of the points raised by Mr. Jamal, I would like to say that when that question of discrimination was brought up to the committee for discussion many members expressed the idea that the committee was conducting its business and is carrying out its mandate on a non-discriminatory basis considering each application submitted to the committee for consideration on its own merit.

"It is true that the committee has approved for the Netherlands the export of chemical materials for water treatment at the same time we have received dozens of requests along that line, most of them were either rejected or put on hold and that is a case which has been approved because some members consider that they have enough information."

Israeli warplanes attack resistance

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked resistance forces Wednesday hours after three katyusha rockets struck an Israeli-held enclave in South Lebanon, security sources said.

The sources said there was no immediate report of casualties from the air strike or from the rocket attack. They said two fighter-bombers swooped down in two sorties on Hizbollah guerrilla positions in the hills of Iqlim Al Tuffah just north of the Israeli-occupied area of South Lebanon at 1:25 p.m. (1125 GMT).

The warplanes, with two other aircraft flying cover and releasing missile-deflecting heat balloons, fired rockets in a five-minute raid on the hill-top positions of Jabal Al Rafih and Jabal Rihan near the town of Jarjou.

Guerrillas opened up with anti-aircraft guns and shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles, but no hits were observed, said the sources.

Iqlim Al Tuffah is a stronghold of the fundamentalist Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, which is leading a guerrilla war to dislodge Israeli occupation forces from South Lebanon.

Hizbollah positions in the hills, most of them cement-reinforced and dug in underground, have been frequent targets of Israel's 10 air raids in Lebanon this year. Seven guerrillas have been killed in the previous strikes.

Less than an hour before Wednesday's air strike, two Israeli helicopter gunships strafed guerrilla outposts and infiltration trails into the Israeli-occupied zone.

The sources said the air attacks were probably provoked by fresh guerrilla infiltration attempts.

Before and after the air action, Israeli gunner shelled guerrilla positions in Iqlim Al Tuffah with mortars and howitzers after three Katyusha rockets crashed overnight on the occupied area Israel calls its "security zone."

The aerial action is the latest clash between Hizbollah and Israeli forces and their local militia allies since ambushes killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded five in South Lebanon Feb. 7.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya, Chad discuss Aouzou withdrawal

CAIRO (R) — Libya and Chad began talks in Tripoli on Tuesday evening on a Libyan withdrawal from the Aouzou strip, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. Chad is pressing Libya to give back the strip in compliance with an International Court of Justice ruling that the territory, occupied by Libya since 1973, belongs to Chad. Earlier this month Chad complained to the United Nations that Libya was delaying withdrawal. The Libyan secretary for justice and public order, Mohammed Al Higazi, said the Tripoli meeting would discuss "the repercussions of the International Court of Justice ruling." "We must try to explore technical aspects which can reinforce relations," he added. The Chadian delegation includes Defence Minister Mamadou Reigui and Interior Minister Abdul Rahman Izzo Miskine. In a letter to the president of the U.N. Security Council, Chad said talks in N'djamena failed this month because Libya "refuses to draw appropriate conclusions from the judgment of the court," even though the highest Libyan authorities claimed to have accepted the judgment. "No date, much less any timetable, has been put forward for the withdrawal of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya from the territory," Chad's envoy to the United Nations wrote.

Thousands rally against Qadianis in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 20,000 member of Islam's largest Sunni sect rallied in Dhaka on Wednesday in an attempt to force the Bangladesh government to declare the smaller Qadiani sect as non-Muslims, witnesses said. Protesters rallied outside the main government secretariat, preventing people from getting in or out and blocking nearby streets. The three-hour protest, organised by the International Majlis-e-Tahafuz-e-Khatmun Nabuwat of Bangladesh and supported by khatibs (head priests), ended peacefully, police said. There were no arrests or injuries. Protesters had demanded an immediate ban on all Qadiani publications and the sacking of all Qadianis from government jobs. Organisers said the Qadianis had already been declared non-Muslims in many Islamic countries for "misinterpreting the Quran" and preaching that Mohammad was not Islam's last Prophet. Qadianis believe the last prophet has yet to be born. Last year Sunnis set fire to a Qadiani religious centre in Dhaka, bringing the dispute into the open for the first time. In December, about 15,000 Sunnis took to the streets in protest over the smaller sect.

Amnesty to expand membership in Morocco

RABAT (R) — The London-based rights group Amnesty International said on Wednesday it had sent a representative to Rabat to expand its membership in Morocco. In a statement Amnesty said Dr. Abdul Mital Gershah of Sudan would "discuss the possibility of setting up local groups working on human rights issues within the organisation's mandate." There are four such groups in Morocco, the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDH), an official body named by King Hassan, the Independent Organisation of Human Rights (OMDH), plus a league and an association linked to opposition parties. During a 10-day visit Mr. Gershah will also confer with trade union and professional groups and with Omar Azziman, appointed the country's first human rights minister by the king last November, the statement said. "In accordance

with the organisation's principles of impartiality and international solidarity, Amnesty International's members do not provide information on human rights violations in their own country, nor as members take any action on individual cases in their country," the statement said.

2 on Beirut U.S. embassy fraud charges

BEIRUT (AP) — Police have charged two Lebanese with fraud and forgery after allegedly persuading 120 people to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for the promise of a job at the U.S. embassy in Beirut. Hilda Simaan Awad and George Aziz Karam were apprehended earlier this month and accused of forging U.S. embassy seals, faking documents and defrauding people, police report said. Police said Ms. Awad has been in business since 1977, charging people seeking help in getting an embassy job up to \$3,000. But the 42-year-old woman claimed she herself was a victim of fraud, according to a police report on her interrogation. She claimed an American man who said he was working for U.S. intelligence bilked her in the jobs-for-cash scheme, taking the money and disappearing after failing to deliver jobs, the report said. Mr. Karam, 26, said he was only collecting money from victims and forwarding it to Ms. Awad, the police report said. Neither Ms. Awad nor Mr. Karam worked for the embassy, police said. There was no comment from the U.S. embassy, which was closed for the day.

Gulf body calls for anti-pollution tax

KUWAIT (R) — An environmental body called for imposition of an anti-pollution tax on shipping in the Gulf to fund a clean up, newspapers reported on Wednesday. "Taxes on ships makes sense because there is no ship that does not pollute," said Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, executive secretary of the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME). Mr. Awadi, speaking at a conference on maritime pollution on Tuesday, did not say how the tax ought to be implemented. He reiterated a call for Gulf states to build anti-pollution port facilities such as jetties, tanks and loading arms to take off "dirty" or oil-contaminated ballast from oil tankers. He said tanks and related anti-pollution measures could cost the region up to 150 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$505 million). Gulf officials have said the cost is prohibitive and Mr. Awadi has in the past called for international assistance with financing.

Sudanese refugees return home from Uganda

KHARTOUM (R) — Twenty-two Sudanese refugees who fled their country's civil war have returned home from Uganda, a Khartoum newspaper said on Wednesday. The government-owned Al Nasr said the handful of refugees, who are among an estimated 200,000 southern Sudanese living in Uganda, had been transported to Bahr Al Jebel state in southern Equatoria province. It said the voluntary repatriation was carried out by Sudan's refugee commission in coordination with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Khartoum. The refugees had fled the long-running civil war in southern Sudan between rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) against the Khartoum government. Uganda is facing an acute food shortage and has appealed for international assistance. The European Union gave Uganda \$1.3 million in March to assist with the refugee problem.